

CHINA BLUE-BOOK NO. 7.

(Daily Press, 26th September.)

In the Blue-book on China No. 7 (1901), issued last month, under the title of *Correspondence respecting the Imperial Railways of North China*, official particulars are at length given of the various Anglo-Russian disputes which have occurred during the Allies' operations in North China. As the question of the "concession" to Russia at Tientsin has been comparatively obscure in the absence of full official details, the portion of the Blue-book dealing therewith deserves careful attention. The outlines of this story of impudent Russian land-grabbing—based on "right of war," since Russian soldiers had died in defence of attacks on the settlements from that quarter—need not be repeated; but fresh light thrown on the subject by the Government despatches may be welcome. Lord SALISBURY telegraphed to Sir E. SATOW on the 9th November, 1900, asking for the facts and circumstances of the case, a REUTER'S telegram from Tientsin having announced that General LINEVITCH had officially informed the Consuls that Russia had, by right of conquest, annexed the land on the river-bank opposite the British and German settlements. Sir E. SATOW, replied, in effect, that this was so, and the British Acting-Consul-General had in answer to the Russian general reserved all British rights. Previously, however, Mr. C. W. CAMPBELL, on the 8th November had written a letter, which was not received by Lord SALISBURY until the 7th January of the present year, in which he gave particulars of the Russian claim. We quote one paragraph:

"On my arrival here at the beginning of October my attention was drawn to the Russian flags planted along the opposite bank of the river, and I found a written complaint awaiting me from Messrs. FORBES and Co., that Russian flags and notice boards were placed on British-owned property, of which they are the agents, without their authorisation. I sent the correspondence relating to this complaint to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD. On 3rd October, General LORNE-CAMPBELL addressed me a letter objecting to obstruction from the Russian military authorities near the railway station, which letter I transmitted to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD on Oct. 4, with the comment that up to then the question involved appeared to be a purely military one, and that I did not propose to take any action here without instructions from Peking. On 25th October, Messrs. BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE informed me that land on the opposite bank belonging to their firm was marked with Russian flags, and on my referring their letter to the Russian Consul with a request for the removal of the flags, I was told that Messrs. BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE should apply directly to the Russian headquarters in the matter. I instructed their agent to do so, and he informs me that he has had an inconclusive, though friendly, interview with Prince WOLKONSKY, the Russian officer charged with these affairs, and that a definite reply is to be given him in another interview, which has been fixed for Monday, the 12th."

Mr. CAMPBELL proceeded to point out that, in his view, if my nationality had a claim more than others to the land in question it was the British. It had become valuable in consequence of the capital sunk, mostly by British subjects, in the British Concession; parts of it were owned by British subjects, and other parts belonged to the North China Railways, in which British capital was largely invested. It

seems to be quite an inversion of the ordinary view of vested interests, he wrote, which can allow the Russian Government to take advantage of the present complications to acquire gratis a piece of land which British subjects have made valuable by forty years of effort.

On the 20th November, Lord SALISBURY received from the British and Chinese Corporation, who had telegraphed to their representatives in China for information, a protest against Russia's action, as most prejudicial to British interests and to the bondholders of the Northern Railway, and a request that Her Majesty's Government should make representation to Russia. On the 26th of the month Lord SALISBURY desired Sir E. SATOW to report by telegraph any details he could obtain about the seizure of land. Sir E. SATOW replied on the 28th November, stating that Russian flags had been hoisted on the properties of BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE, COUSINS, and DICKINSON and that the Russian military authorities offered to remove them on condition that the title to the ground was recognised as valid by the Russian and British Consuls as having been acquired before the Russian occupation, and that the firms would undertake not to hoist British flags "until the flag question should be settled by common accord." The Consul-General at Tientsin, he said, lodged a protest on the 17th November against the placing of Russian flags on British subjects' property, and he had approved this protest. Further messages passed between the Foreign Office and Peking, as well as the British and Chinese Corporation, whereby fuller particulars of the extent of the Russian annexation were ascertained. The Corporation stated that the land alluded to was by a clause of the 1899 Loan Agreement, included in the mortgage to the bondholders of the Northern Railway. Meanwhile, on the 13th November, Messrs. BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE's representative at Tientsin wrote to Acting Consul-General CAMPBELL, stating that in accordance with his advice they had interviewed Prince WOLKONSKY, the Russian officer detailed for attention to the matter.

"We explained to him," says Mr. FISHER, "that the property in question was ours, and that, as British subjects, we objected to the raising of Russian flags on our land, and we respectfully requested their removal. We explained that if our assurance of ownership were not sufficient, satisfactory assurance to this effect could be obtained by enquiry at the British Consulate-General. The Prince promised to convey our wishes to the Russian General LINEVITCH, and to communicate the General's reply, which he did at an interview by appointment yesterday. The General's reply was to the effect that the land was occupied by right of war, as Russian soldiers had died in defence of attacks on the concessions from that quarter. We mentioned incidentally that British troops also had died in the same defence, but pointed out how entirely irrelevant such matters were as a justification for the assumption of rights over British property. The Prince laboured to draw a distinction between occupying the land and taking possession of it, and in illustration he indicated that it would be quite possible that the Russian authorities, while approving our particular rights, might still retain a somewhat general and indefinite right embracing our own. To this we expressed unqualified dissent, maintaining that, as British subjects, we could admit no Russian rights of any kind over our own property. We pointed out to the Prince that, whatever the Russian

intentions might be with regard to land on the opposite side of the river, it could scarcely be to their interest to molest us as they were doing. We explained that our objects were by no means obstructive, as any scheme for improvement would be likely to enhance the value of our property. Briefly, the result of our interview was that the Russian General was unwilling to remove the flags, as he occupied our land by what he described as right of war, and that, for satis action, we must refer to our Consul."

The Russian reply was as given in Sir E. SATOW's telegram of the 28th November, referred to above, in answer to which Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE stated that the land was purchased by them before the Russian troops came to Tientsin, and that they could admit no Russian rights of any kind over the property. The Tientsin British Municipal Council also protested, urging that the British had the strongest claims to the land in question, if it were to pass under foreign control. Diplomatic proceedings followed, the Russian official assurances being admirable, but as usual unaccompanied by any pretence at action in accordance with them. On the 9th January Sir E. SATOW wrote to Lord LANSDOWNE that Mr. TOWER had called at the Russian Legation at Peking, and that Russia put forward an Agreement between M. DE GIERS and LI HUNG-CHANG, dated 31st December, 1900, whereby Russia was granted a concession at Tientsin east of the Peiho, a circular to this effect having been circulated by M. N. POPPE, Russian Consul *ad interim*, on the 6th January, 1901. The "siding incident" followed, the details of which are familiar to our readers, and the settlement of which was ultimately referred to Count von WALDESEE. Here, as far as the Blue-book is concerned, the matter ends. The ultimate decision, however, with respect to Russia's claim is still to come.

THE COURT'S RETURN.

(Daily Press, 24th September.)

So many contradictory rumours have been circulated about the movements of the Chinese Imperial Court that it is perfectly impossible to judge what importance should be attached to the Hsianfu despatch quoted in our Shanghai correspondent's telegram of yesterday's date. Recent news from the North has led us to believe that preparations for the Court's return to Peking were being pushed on. The Forbidden City was handed over to the Chinese troops on the 17th instant, and it was reasonably to be expected that, were the desire to return to Peking genuine, the Court would only allow the period necessary for effecting repairs to the palaces to elapse before starting from Hsianfu for the capital. It is many months since we first heard of the Emperor's great anxiety to be back in Peking once more. It is true that the story about a probable stay at Kaifengfu is not new. Indeed, it has been reported more than once during the current year that Kaifengfu would be made the temporary capital of the Chinese Empire, or that the Empress Dowager at least would advance no further on the road to Peking. No such stories, however, had any appearance of certainty. Until we learn more of the latest despatch we must give it no more importance than its predecessors. Still it must not be forgotten that more than one foreigner who can claim to speak with authority on Chinese affairs has prophesied that the "desecration" of Peking will be an effectual bar to the settling down of the Court in its old surroundings. It is urgent that all

means should be taken to bring the Emperor KWANG Hsu back. Until he is once more in Peking the restoration of order cannot but seem incomplete in the eyes of Chinese and foreigners alike. In the occupation by the Allies of the Chinese capital the greatest lesson of the unacknowledged war between China and the world has lain. If the fact of that occupation is to be taken as unfitting Peking as the centre of government, practically all the value of the lesson is lost. Moreover, at Kaifengfu the Emperor will still be in the hands of his captors. Only in his escape to Peking can any guarantee of good government for China be given.

THE 1901 PLAGUE EPIDEMIC.

(*Daily Press*, 25th September.)

Like all other Reports prepared by our zealous Medical Officer of Health, Dr. FRANCIS CLARK's Report on the Epidemic of Bubonic Fever (Plague), during the half-year ended 20th June, 1901, has the hallmark of thoroughness and earnestness stamped on every paragraph. There is, however, one unsatisfactory feature about it: we refer to the lateness of its issue. The document is dated July 20th; but it was not published by Government till the 21st September, i.e., exactly nine weeks after it first saw light. Such intrinsically important documents, one would think, might be treated with more reasonable expedition, and sent forth to the world at large with less delay—delay, we hasten to add, for which DR. CLARK seems in no way responsible. This year's epidemic, with its tale of 1,487 reported cases for six months, as shown by analytic reference to Appendix D, is by far the most serious outbreak we have had to contend with since 1894, when the disease first showed itself. The years 1898, with 1,312, 1896 with 1,116, 1899 with 1,073, and last year with 764 known cases during the same half-yearly period, come next in order of virulence. The figures for this year are not so alarming as they at first sight appear. There can be no room for doubt that whereas in the earlier outbreaks, notably in 1894, 1896, and 1898, the native sections daily left us by thousands during the worst stages of the disease, this temporary exodus from our shores has not this year been nearly so marked. Those who were resident here in 1894 will not readily forget the absolutely empty, deserted look of our busiest thoroughfare, Queen's Road Central, during the darkest days of the scourge. Grass never sprang up in it, as it did in London in 1665, but its dreariness was oppressive, and its silence appalling. The greater severity of this year's epidemic is more apparent than real; and, could the daily death-rate be worked out in percentages of the actual population resident on our island for each day—such statistics, unhappily for this purpose, are not available—this fact would be demonstrated as conclusively and logically as one of Euclid's propositions. The Sanitary Board's methods of tackling the problem are less crude, more persuasive, and more appreciably effective now than then: there is now, also, a certain measurable amount of understanding between the authorities and the general mass of people, which did not formerly exist. In his terse summary of the history of the twenty-six European cases that occurred in the first six months, DR. CLARK incontestably proves the more or less direct association of rats and plague. Out of thirty men, too, engaged in collecting rats, seven of them died of plague within the half-year under notice; and of five others who left the

Colony sick, two are said to have succumbed on the mainland—a gruesome total of 30 per cent. The total number of rats paid for this first half-year exceeds that for the whole of 1900, so that the inroad made on this class of rodent must be extensive. The charted rise and fall in the diurnal number of bubonic cases closely follows that of rat mortality. There can be thus no question as to the intimate relationship existing between the two collated series of facts. Appendix B is an account of experiments conducted with the *virus citiugens* of Professor DANYSZ. The results as far as the feasibility of rat-extermination is concerned, are not satisfactory. After a certain stage has been reached, the rats refuse to eat the dead bodies of their infected friends, whose corpses would then become a noisome nuisance, if not a positive danger. DR. CLARK does not recommend the use of this virus. A similar conclusion has been reached by an American scientist. It is peculiarly gratifying to learn that a very considerably smaller proportion of dead bodies was dumped into the streets and harbour this year than in previous years. On the other hand, more sick adults and children, to all appearances forcibly ejected by their fellow lodgers and relatives, have been cast adrift on the highways and byways, in order to evade disinfection of the premises. This heartless practice is pointedly pressed as a powerful reason for a more vigorous and urgent policy of house-cleaning and disinfection during the dormant period. Such increased activity, as DR. CLARK states, involves the acquirement of additional legal powers by the Sanitary Board. Bye-laws framed in this direction have been drafted and submitted to the proper authorities for the approval of the Legislative Council. A rigorous system of house-to-house visitation, in the opinion of DR. CLARK, and indeed in that of all intelligent observers, is of the very utmost value during the sporadic, as opposed to the epidemic, season. This is especially the case when we consider the numberless cunning devices adopted by the natives to conceal their sick and to get rid of their burden of dead. Children, coolies, domestic servants, the unemployed, and sewing-women, in the order named, are the classes of the community that have furnished most victims this year. Health Districts IV, IX, II and V, i.e., the Central, Saivingpun, East, and West Central sections of the City of Victoria, and Health District XI on the promontory opposite, given in order of intensity, have contributed the biggest number of cases. The Report with its four Appendices of carefully tabulated matter, and its two accompanying charts, is one that merits the minute attention of all who profess to have the sanitary welfare of our growing community at heart.

Sentence of imprisonment for life was passed on Iba Sotaro on the 10th inst. by the Tokyo Chiho Saibansho for the murder of Mr. Hoshi Tora. In the course of a very long judgement the following paragraph conveys the actual sentence:—"The defendant having murdered Hoshi Tora with premeditation, his action came under Article 292 of the Penal Code, which provides that a person who shall have murdered another with premeditation shall be punished with death. The defendant hastily concluded the state of affairs, and perpetrated the murder. The offence is undoubtedly very grave. But there exist extenuating circumstances which are allowed in his favour according to the provisions of Article 89 of the Penal Code, and his penalty is therefore reduced by one degree from that prescribed for premeditated murder. The defendant is sentenced to penal servitude for life."

BUILDING IN HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press*, 26th September.)

To-day at the meeting of the Legislative Council the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD will give notice of the question:—"Will the Honourable the Attorney-General lay upon the table a copy of the depositions taken by the Magistrate at the enquiry, held at the Magistracy on 30th August last under Ordinance No. 7 of 1889, into the death of forty-three persons, consequent upon the collapse or tumbling down of houses Nos. 32 and 34, Cochrane Street, on the night of 14th idem, together with a copy of the Magistrate's decision or finding thereon?" In another column will be found the verdict delivered at the Magistracy yesterday morning on the Cochrane Street house collapse. With all deference due to so able a magistrate as Mr. F. A. HAZELAND has proved himself to be again and again, we cannot but feel that we are voicing the opinion of the community when we say that the verdict cannot be accepted as a satisfactory and final summing up on this terrible calamity. Forty-three deaths were caused, and yet we find no direct word of blame in the Magistrate's award for any one concerned. We are told that the buildings were taxed beyond their strength, that they were not properly erected in the first instance, that the additions were not made in accordance with the approved plans, that the provisions of the Building Ordinance were not carried into effect, that the present Public Works Staff is inadequate for the work it has to do. All this we knew before. What we want to know now is whether any one is to pay the penalty for the dreadful loss of life to which these circumstances contributed. Is no censure to be passed on any one, and is there to be no result from the investigations made? We cannot believe this. The Government cannot remain under the imputation of heartlessness and indifference to the loss of human life. The time is now, if ever, for an unflinching attitude toward the situation which has arisen, and the authorities cannot preserve their credit at the same time as they hesitate to perform their plain duty.

(*Daily Press*, 27th September.)

A paper was laid before the Legislative Council yesterday giving particulars of buildings in the Colony which collapsed between the 30th May, 1895, and the 14th August, 1901. This was done in reply to a request from the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD for these details. The document is well worth careful attention. Briefly summarised, the record is of 71 collapses during the specified period, involving 101 human deaths; while the injuries actually given are 16, in addition to one entry of "a number," and 64 cases where, as in the Cochrane Street Collapse, no remark is made as to injuries. These 71 collapses do not mean that only 71 houses fell down; they vary from a verandah, a back-wall, part of a roof, or a matshed, to a row of fifteen houses. The column headed "Description of Building Collapsed" being incomplete, it is impossible to analyse thoroughly the nature of the collapses: 30 whole houses are definitely specified previous to the recent disaster. An interesting column is that which gives the names of the owners of the buildings. In 40 out of the 71 cases these are Chinese. In the column giving the attributed cause of the collapse, no records exist in 39 cases; 15 cases are attributed to typhoon (14 of which were in September-November of last year), and 6 to heavy rains, in 4 cases combined with

defective building. Decay of buildings or timbers, landslip, fire, carelessness in reconstruction or demolition, and bad foundation, etc., account for the remaining cases. The number of coroner's enquiries was 9, exclusive of the Cochrane Street case; the result of these as far as can be gathered from the table was to decide that 22 people had been killed and 4 injured—an instructive result! One prosecution was instituted, viz., in the case of the collapse of Nos. 45 and 47, High Street on the 15th June last, when the contractor, who was also part-owner, was fined \$100. Here a wall with a weak base had been pulled down and rebuilt and two additional windows had been opened in it; and three deaths were caused by the fall of the houses. In two cases chronicled in the list, involving the death of five men, no enquiry was held and no record of the cause of collapse appears.

Such, briefly put, is the story of building collapses during some six years of our Colony's history. It cannot be pretended by anyone that it is not a miserable record, and one of which those concerned have every cause to be ashamed. Yet only now by dint of great pressure do the authorities appear to have awakened to the necessity of some action. The undermanned building inspection staff is showing vigour, but the work is beyond its present strength, and unless it is reinforced there is little hope of amelioration. As we stated a few days ago, the Government is believed to be giving the matter most careful attention. It is to be hoped, too, that the subject of enquiries into such collapses as occur in the future may be fully dealt with, and some less futile methods adopted than have prevailed in the past.

DEATH OF MR. J. J. FRANCIS.

(*Daily Press*, 23rd September.)

It is with sincere regret we have to record the unexpected death of Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, K.C., the leader of the Hongkong Bar, and one of the oldest and best known residents in this Colony. Mr. FRANCIS, availing himself of the vacation, recently left here for a short trip to Japan, and information was received here yesterday morning to the effect that he had died at Yokohama of apoplexy. Few men have been more identified with the history of this Colony than had Mr. FRANCIS. His experiences have been alike varied and interesting during his long career in Hongkong. He arrived here with the Royal Artillery, in which force he was a non-commissioned officer, during the second China War, and at its conclusion bought his discharge, married, and settled down here to the study of law in the office of Mr. GASKELL, a local solicitor. For this profession he was by his natural bent of mind eminently qualified. He had been educated at Stonyhurst, having been intended for the Roman Catholic priesthood, and though he could not, being essentially of a militant character, bring himself to take orders, he always remained a faithful son of the Church and admirer of the Jesuit order. It was not remarkable, therefore, that, when he had served his articles and commenced practice, he soon rose in his new profession. After a few years' successful practice, during which he made money, he decided to read for the Bar, and accordingly sold the practice to his partner, Mr. M. J. D. STEPHENS, and proceeded to London, where in due course he was admitted at Gray's Inn. On his return to the Colony, however, Mr. FRANCIS found it more difficult than he expected to make his way in the higher branch of the profession. Mr. T. C. HAYLLAR,

Q.C., the then leader of the Bar and the then Attorney-General (who at that time was allowed private practice) monopolising all the plums. For some years, therefore, he was obliged to be content with the crumbs that fell from the table, and during that time he was glad to accept the posts successively of Acting Police Magistrate and Acting Prisne Judge, which he obtained through the influence of Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY, whose side he consistently espoused in that Governor's long and bitter quarrel with the British and Foreign community. On the whole, it must be said for Mr. FRANCIS that his friendship with Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY cost him far more than he gained by it, and it would therefore be unfair to impute to him self-interest as a motive for his advocacy of the Hennessian *régime*. His outspoken utterances, too, estranged many persons who would otherwise have employed him professionally. But Mr. FRANCIS's talents were so conspicuous, his experience so great and varied, that he was bound to make his way to the front, and when Mr. HAYLLAR retired he had no rival, and has since—for the past eighteen years—remained in undisputed possession of the first place as advocate at the Hongkong Bar. He was made a Q.C. in the year 1886, during the administration of Sir GEORGE BOWEN. Since that period Mr. FRANCIS has been closely identified with local affairs in the Colony. In no capacity, however, has he shone so brilliantly as in the exercise of his profession, where he made a reputation that will long survive him. He was for some time a member of the Sanitary Board, and did yeoman service during the first outbreak of the plague—service which was most inadequately recognised by the presentation from the Colonial office of a silver inkstand while a young official associated with him in the work was rewarded with the Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He was also an enthusiastic Volunteer, in which force he held a commission for many years, and was for some time its popular and energetic Commandant. Even when advancing years induced him to resign and make way for younger men, he still evinced the keenest interest in the movements of his Corps, and nearly always attended at their outings and parades. He was also for several years a member of the Committee of the China Association, and eventually Chairman, a post he only resigned just before leaving for Japan, on the ground that he found his professional duties consumed all the time he was able to give to work. Mr. FRANCIS always had one unfulfilled ambition: he coveted a seat on the Legislative Council, and was a candidate for the seat vacated by Mr. WHITEHEAD when the latter gentleman last went home on leave. But the Chamber of Commerce was not responsive; the members prefer to be represented by a member of the commercial community, and their choice fell on Mr. THURBURN, manager of the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited. Hongkong will miss JOHN JOSEPH FRANCIS in many ways. It will miss his genial, breezy presence, his ready eloquence, and his cheerful willingness to assist in the promotion of any public measure or any social institution. As one of the founders of the Odd Volumes and as an ardent supporter of the Navy League he rendered invaluable assistance in arousing public interest in those bodies. In his time he met with many rebuffs, sustained many reverses, but always met them manfully and never bore malice, General sympathy will be felt for his widow, on whom the news of his decease must have fallen with much severity.

THE ENGINEERING EXPERT FOR HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press*, 25th September.)

It is stated that Mr. OSBERT CHADWICK has been appointed to the Commission which is to inquire into the sanitary condition of the Colony, and will act in conjunction with Professor SIMPSON. No official communication has yet reached the Petitioners to confirm these appointments, but there is reason to believe these experts have been selected. Reference has already been made in these columns to the appointment of the medical expert, whose nomination, we believe we are correct in stating, is not viewed with much favour by the local Government owing to his being a strong man and apt to give vent to his opinion. The administration of the local Government has been so much criticised of late that it may pardonably fear the advent of a strong independent commission of inquiry. The appointment of Mr. CHADWICK as the engineering expert is viewed with mingled feelings by the community. No one doubts the ability of such an eminent expert, for it is generally believed that had his recommendations been carried out, and not in numerous instances either tampered and trifled with or ignored entirely, the necessity for such a Commission would not now exist. Fortunately Mr. COOPER, the real originator of the existing system of drainage, will not be here to persuade Mr. CHADWICK, as he undoubtedly did in the past, but the fact remains that the Committee who originated the Petition discussed very fully the possibility of Mr. CHADWICK's being again sent and were unanimously opposed to his reappointment. There is no reason to believe that on this the opinion of the Committee has altered. The Petition asked for an independent expert, and though Mr. CHADWICK may be an able engineer and familiar from experience of the conditions prevailing in Hongkong with our essential needs, yet his having filled for some years the position of consulting engineer to the Hongkong Government disqualifies him if that condition is to be adhered to. At present he is a servant of the Government whose administration he is called to investigate and judge, and is scarcely likely to condemn methods which he may have initiated and which from experience have been found unsuitable. We feel we are expressing the feeling of the community in stating that while there will be no formal objection made to his appointment, yet much disappointment will be felt if he should arrive, for the reason that the wishes of the community for an independent expert have not been recognised. Such, however, emphasises the greater need of the medical expert being a strong and a capable man.

A recent proclamation of the Shanghai *hsien* Magistrate set forth new laws regarding tramps and vagabonds. These are promulgated by authority of the high provincial authorities. In the prefectures of Soochow, Sungkiang, Changchow, Chenchiang, and Taichow, for a first offence, such criminals will be caugued and two characters signifying "tramp" will be branded on their left cheek. Only if they find bondsmen will they be released. After three years' good conduct they will be allowed to remove the branding. A second offence will be dealt with more severely by imprisonment for three years. Persons bearing arms for illicit purposes will also be branded and tied to an iron stake for one year. If they are still unrepentant they will be tied to a big stone for five years. Very aggravated cases will be banished or summarily executed as necessary.

THE TREATMENT OF ASSASSINS

(*Daily Press*, 24th September.)

Among the incentives which exist to prompt such terrible outrages as the murder of the late President **McKINLEY** and others who have fallen martyrs to the hand of an assassin, the fact of notoriety has undoubtedly always counted for much. The problem for the administrators of justice after such crimes have been committed therefore is to punish the evil-doer without giving him the chance of figuring as a victim in the eyes of the less stable section of the community. It has been long recognised that the effect of a more or less public execution is rather to lend a spurious halo to the perpetrator of the murder than to convey a salutary lesson. In countries like Italy, where capital punishment has been abolished, the sentence of imprisonment for life in solitary confinement is doubtless effective, for the pitiful romance of death on the scaffold is lacking to signalise the murderer's end. **BRESCI**, the assassin of the late King **HUMBERT**, committed suicide in madness induced by his punishment, and his fate thereby attracted far less attention than if he had been hanged or beheaded soon after the commission of his awful deed. In the great majority of cases of attempted assassination the guilty parties have been adjudged insane; even in cases where the crime has actually been perpetrated the murderer has usually had the benefit of whatever doubt may have existed. The recent murder in Japan of Mr. **HOSHII TORU** has furnished an extremely interesting example of the way in which the tribunal before whom the culprit is brought to justice may regard the affair. As will be seen from the intelligence already given, **IBA SOTARO**, who killed the deceased Japanese statesman, got off with life imprisonment, the Tokyo Chibu Saibansho finding that there were extenuating circumstances. In this connection some remarks in the *Kobe Chronicle* are worth quotation. Our contemporary says:—

"That **IBA**'s punishment has been reduced one degree is a small matter in itself, and it may be urged with some force that imprisonment for life is a sentence far less likely to exalt the assassin in the minds of the populace as a martyr to patriotism than the infliction of capital punishment. It will be recalled that when Viscount **MORI** was murdered, and his assassin executed, for years afterwards pilgrimages were made to the grave where the latter was buried and offerings of incense and flowers made. A sentence of life imprisonment at least prevents such an unfortunate exhibition of sympathy for violent deeds done from patriotic motives; while it has the further advantage of showing that in the eyes of the law life is sacred and is not to be taken lightly, even when the offence is most grave."

Altogether it seems regrettable that on such an important occasion the judges who tried **IBA SOTARO** found themselves unable to issue a weighty condemnation of the act and the reasoning by which **IBA** has sought to justify himself before the country. The cases of Mr. **HOSHII**'s murder by **IBA** and of President **McKINLEY**'s murder by **CZOLGORZ** are of course very different. We know of no plea urged by the Polish anarchist in extenuation of his deed; **IBA SOTARO** insisted on his patriotism. **CZOLGORZ** has been found guilty of murder in the first degree and will presumably end his life by electrocution; the Japanese assassin is doomed to spend his remaining years in prison. In neither case can any sane man discover a romance. Unfortunately the

death-penalty conveys to some morbid minds the glory of martyrdom. The decision as to the right course to take in the punishment of such crimes is indeed a hard one. In many ways the method adopted in dealing with King **HUMBERT**'s assassin seems to combine the maximum of punishment with the minimum of notoriety. But the punishment, nevertheless, is to many revolting inhumanity. The question is whether such people as **BRESCI**, **CZOLGORZ**, and their numerous predecessors retain the right after their crimes to be considered human.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

SHANGHAI, 23rd September, 10.47 a.m.
A Hsianfu despatch reports that the Imperial Court will proceed to Kaifeng-fu, Honan, and will remain there for two years.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 26th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

Hon. Col. L. F. BROWN, R.E. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. C. M. MESSER (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar General).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. J. THURBURN.

Hon. J. J. BELL IRVING.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Acting Clerk of Councils).

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. A. W. BREWIN took the oath and his seat rice the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., on leave.

THE ESTIMATES.

H. E. the GOVERNOR said:—

Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council—As is usual when laying the Estimates before you, it is well to take some account of the incidents of the past year affecting the Colony, to consider our position generally, and to render to you as far as can be done in a short statement an account of our stewardship. It is needless to say that the sad event that touched all our hearts most deeply was the death of our great and dearly loved Queen, for whom all the world has mourned, and to whose memory a great memorial, worthy I hope of the greatest among the great, is projected in London. Towards the cost of that memorial all the Colonies are contributing. Our people of Hongkong have with their usual liberality subscribed \$77,860, to which sum I propose that this Council shall add \$50,000—a proposal that I am certain will meet the approval of every member of the Council.

The war in South Africa, waged under circumstances of exceptional difficulty, and extending over an area nearly as large as the whole of South China east of Yunnan, has cost us many thousands of the flower of our people, who have laid down their lives in the most sacred of all duties—that of upholding the honour of their country. But their sacrifice has not been in vain, for the war, with all its tedious and trying incidents, has shown that the qualities of high courage and patient determination that have built up our Empire are as strong and dominant as at any period of our history, and it has demonstrated that the British Empire is not, as some have thought, a conglomeration of loosely bound protected countries, of Colonies restless under a centralised Government, and of subject nations

yielding a sullen submission; but that wherever our flag floats, when the tocsin of war had sounded, the swords of free peoples leaped from their scabbards and the British Empire stood forth solid and compact with the fervour of patriotism throbbing as strongly at the extremities as in the heart of England.

The serious troubles in the North of China have affected this Colony less than might have been expected. These troubles are yet too recent to enable us to form a fair estimate of their cause, and it may be that history will show that there have been grave faults and mistakes on both sides, but happily in the South we have been spared the horrors that have deluged some of the Northern provinces with blood, and I am glad to say that the relations of this Colony with Canton have never been more cordial.

During the past year the amount of shipping entering and clearing from the port was greater than at any period of its history, and the returns show that the financial position of the Colony is satisfactory. A grave local misfortune was experienced on the 9th November, when the Colony was visited by a typhoon, the disastrous result of which must be fresh in your memory. In that terrible night 10 launches and over 119 junks were sunk in the harbour, and it is calculated that between Hongkong and Tai O over two hundred lives were lost. I wish to express here my admiration of the ready and abundant charity with which the inhabitants of every nationality relieved the distress of the sufferers.

I regret deeply that, notwithstanding the precautions taken in the early part of this year, plague reappeared in the spring in epidemic form and raged with great violence during the summer months. The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary staff spared no exertions to check its ravages, but so far I fear that we cannot claim to have discovered either the prevention or the cure. It is, however, our plain duty to leave nothing untried that science can suggest to save the Colony from the recurring visitations of this disease, and I have no doubt that you will cheerfully grant the necessary funds to carry out any recommendations that may be made after examination by responsible experts. I have approached the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this subject, and have received an intimation that Mr. Osbert Chadwick, an eminent Sanitary Engineer, will come out at the end of the year to examine and report upon the sanitary condition of the Colony. I have no doubt that this will be agreeable to the people of Hongkong, who are naturally in a state of great anxiety on the subject of sanitation. It has also been intimated to me that a medical man with experience of the plague epidemic elsewhere will be sent to consult with the Medical Officers of the Colony. I hope most earnestly that the result of these visits may throw some light upon the causes of this annual visitation of plague and enable us to combat its attack with a greater measure of success. The telegrams that have passed on this subject will be laid on the table to-day. Outside the plague mortality, the death-rate of the Colony compares favourably with that of any Colony in the East, or any port in China. During the continuance of the epidemic the business of the port was seriously interfered with by the withdrawal from the Colony of many thousands of Chinese who feared that in the event of their contracting the disease they could not, if they so desired, return to their homes. Representations were made on the subject by the Chamber of Commerce and by the inhabitants generally—representations to which I gave my strongest support—but His Majesty's Government did not feel justified in assenting to any regulation under which plague patients could return to their homes. I hope, however, to be able to come to an arrangement with the Viceroy of the two Kwangs that will admit of the transfer under proper precautions of Chinese suffering from the disease who may desire to proceed to Canton for treatment, and thus relieve the anxiety that impelled so many of the Chinese to abandon for a time their occupations in this Colony.

Next to plague our most dangerous disease is malarial fever, which observation proves to be the result of inoculation by anopheles mosquito. I have determined to enter upon the heavy task of training the nullahs flowing into the

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City of Victoria, and there have been for several months about 200 coolies employed in cutting the bush and filling the pools that harbour mosquitoes in the western nullahs.

The expenses of the New Territory are still very heavy, and so far the revenue has not nearly come up to the estimate. The reason of this is that the land revenue cannot be satisfactorily collected until the cadastral survey has been made and the lands demarcated. The difficulty will then disappear. The expenditure has been for the construction of the Taipo Road now approaching completion to Taipo Hu, for police stations, for police launches to patrol the two hundred miles of coast, for the survey, and for the Land Court, in whose hands the settlement of land claims is placed. These expenses could not have been avoided, and when the country begins to develop the expenses will be amply repaid.

The present financial position of the Colony is satisfactory. On the 31st December, 1900, the assets of the Colony showed a balance over liabilities of \$1,100,785.69, which does not include the value of silver at the Mint, amounting to \$40,415.82. This balance it is anticipated will be still further increased by \$358,295.94, the estimated balance of revenue after expenditure in 1901, which will thus increase the assets to \$1,499,497.45.

The loan account of £341,799.15.1. to be paid off in 1943, had £16,485.13.2 to the credit of the Sinking Fund.

The revenue for 1900 was \$4,202,587.49, and the expenditure was \$3,628,447.13. Taking the revenue of five years ago at \$2,609,878.94 and the expenditure exclusive of the interest and Sinking Fund of the Loan at \$2,244,291.5, these figures show that in five years the revenue has increased by 61 per cent. and the expenditure by 56½ per cent.

Turning to the Estimates now placed before you, it will be seen that the estimated revenue amounts to \$4,605,965, and the estimated expenditure, including Public Works Extraordinary, to \$4,560,505.26. The memorandum accompanying the Estimates for 1902 explains in detail the reasons for the anticipated increases and decreases in the various items of Revenue. 11½ has been taken as the rate of exchange for sterling payments.

The Land Revenue of the New Territory is estimated at \$30,000. It is expected that this sum will be realised, but, as I have already explained, the true revenue of that portion of the Colony cannot be hoped for until the survey has been completed and the land claims decided. As to the details of expenditure, every department shows an increase on its establishment. This is due to the increase in the pay of subordinate officers of the Service as recommended by the Committee appointed last year, and to additions to the staff of certain departments. There seems to be a general impression that certain departments—the Public Works, the Post Office, the Medical Department, and the Sanitary Department—are being unduly curtailed as regards funds, or personnel, or both. It may therefore be interesting to contrast the annual expenditure on these departments in 1896, in 1900, and in present Estimates.

	Post Works.	Office Medical.	Sanitary.
1896 ..	\$85,694.10	\$183,201.17	\$109,763.49
1900 ..	123,306.00	239,480.00	130,434.00
1901 ..	138,701.00	245,294.00	146,666.00

As regards the Public Works Department, the Acting Director of Public Works reports that the staff is not sufficiently strong to carry out the various works and duties entrusted to it. Provision has therefore been made in the Estimates for two additional engineers. It is my intention to appoint a Commission to report upon the staff and working of the Public Works Department, which is the chief spending department of the Colony.

With respect to the Post Office, every effort is being made to render that institution worthy of the Colony. It must be evident that here there are exceptional difficulties to contend against, but it is hoped that the comparatively few complaints received of late may be an indication that matters are working more smoothly. The Postmaster-General, Commander Hastings, has just returned from leave, during which time he has devoted himself to inquiry into the working of the department in

England, and he will, I am certain, be ably seconded by Mr. Lewis, who has discharged the duties of Acting Postmaster-General very satisfactorily during the absence of Commander Hastings.

I have also considered the state of the Medical Department, and have decided to increase the staff at once by making provision in the Estimates for two Assistant Surgeons, one of whom will be employed as Second Health Officer of the Port in accordance with the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce. Should it be found that any further addition to the Sanitary staff is necessary, I shall appeal to you with confidence for the necessary funds. Apart from the staff, it is not improbable that very large sums will have to be expended in the near future in the Sanitary improvement of the City—sums that will absorb our balance and probably involve increased taxation. Happily, the taxation of the Colony is comparatively light, and in a matter of such moment I feel that I can depend upon you to supply the necessary funds. The estimate for Public Works Extraordinary amounts to the large sum of \$802,316.68; of this sum \$146,000 is for waterworks and \$82,000 for extension of markets, while \$79,000 is for the improved accommodation for the Police, which will tend to improve the comfort and efficiency of the Force.

BILLS.

The following Bills will be submitted to you:

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding three million seven hundred and thirty-nine thousand three hundred and twelve dollars and twenty-six cents to the Public Service of the year 1902.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend An Ordinance entitled the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1885 (No. 8 of 1885).

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the New Territories Land Court Ordinance, 1900 (No. 18 of 1900).

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1901 (No. 13 of 1901).

A Bill entitled An Ordinance relating to Copyright in Works of the Fine Arts, and for repressing the commission of fraud in the production and sale of such works.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 15 of 1887, and to remove any doubts as to the validity of any matters done under it.

From my experience I know that these and all other measures laid before you will receive conscientious and careful consideration.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a report by the Medical Officer of Health on the epidemic of bubonic fever (plague) during the half-year ending 30th June, 1901, and a report as to the professional supervision of building works, which was discussed at a meeting held on the 5th inst. of civil engineers, architects, and surveyors representing the firms in the Colony which have been in practice for the longest period. The following papers were also laid on the table:—Financial statement for 1900, report by the Registrar-General on the census of the Colony for 1901, and telegrams regarding the appointment of sanitary experts.

FINANCIAL.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER, Financial Minutes Nos. 57 to 60 were referred to the Finance Committee.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER, the report of the Finance Committee (No. 9) was adopted.

QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL FUND.

COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I beg to move that this Council vote a sum of \$50,000 in aid of the memorial to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. No words of mine are necessary to commend this vote to hon. members. Hongkong was founded and flourished during the glorious reign of the late Queen, and it is therefore only natural, sir, that this Colony should desire to contribute towards a memorial intended to perpetuate the memory of one of the greatest Queens in British history, Victoria the Great and Good. (Applause.)

Mr. CHATER—Your Excellency, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution just pro-

posed, that the Colony should contribute out of its revenue the sum of \$50,000 toward the erection of the proposed memorial in London to the late Queen Victoria. I do so with the more satisfaction because I was unfortunately prevented by indisposition from being present at the meeting held here on the 14th ult., and seconding the resolution in reference to the starting of the public subscription, which I am glad to see has reached such a creditable sum. As has already been remarked, it is most fitting that Hongkong, the first Colony acquired during the long and glorious reign of Queen Victoria of illustrious memory, should be worthily represented in any memorial of that reign. This city, if I mistake not, was the first to be named after Her late Majesty, and it is right that it should respond most liberally to the invitation extended to it. We have prospered much and grown into commercial greatness during the sixty odd years of Queen Victoria's benevolent rule, and I am sure we are only too happy to be permitted the opportunity of giving some, if inadequate, expression to that feeling of gratitude and veneration to a great and good Sovereign which is now afforded to us. I trust, sir, that the monument about to be erected will in every way be worthy of the late Queen. I see that it has been placed in good hands. The subject, however, is one of unusual difficulty, but we hope that the sculptors and designers will rise to the unique occasion and create a memorial of beauty that shall impress coming generations and show them how this great Empire loved and honoured a wise ruler and noble Queen.

The vote was unanimously agreed to.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

COLONIAL SECRETARY—With reference to the matters dealt with in the Report of the Public Works Committee (No. 5) and in the communication from the civil engineers and architects, I have to inform the Council that they are under the consideration of the Government, and it is the intention of the Government to introduce shortly legislation dealing with those matters.

NEW SANITARY BYE-LAWS.

Mr. CHATHAM—Sir, I beg to move the adoption of additional bye-laws for the prevention of epidemic, endemic, or contagious disease, made by the Sanitary Board under Section 13 of the Public Health Ordinance, No. 13 of 1901. These bye-laws, as will be remembered by hon. members, were before the Council at last meeting, and, as I then explained, the necessity for them arises in great measure from the practice that exists of dumping dead bodies in the streets, which renders it impossible for the Board at present to carry out the process of disinfection in the case of a house where such cases have occurred. These measures will enable the Board to carry out a general disinfection. There is at present no means of knowing the houses where the bodies come from, and the result is that those houses escape disinfection. With general disinfection that difficulty will be overcome, and it would tend to enable us to be in a more fit state to meet another epidemic of plague. I beg to move that the bye-laws be adopted.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded.

COLONIAL SECRETARY—It may tend to shorten any discussion that may arise with regard to these bye-laws if I inform hon. members, on behalf of the Government, that the question of compensation which arose at last meeting of Council has been very carefully considered, but it has been found impossible to fix any hard and fast rule. With regard to the amount of compensation to be granted, it has been decided by the Government that each claim for compensation as it arises shall be decided on its merits.

Dr. HO KAI—Do I understand that the Government, in the case of damage being done to furniture, will entertain any application for compensation, as long as it considers that it is a fair application, and that compensation will be paid?

COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the hon. member, I may state that the Government is prepared to consider each case on its merits, and if the case shows that compensation should be paid, such amount as is due will be paid. I trust this explanation will be considered satisfactory.

The motion was then put to the Council and carried.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL BYE-LAWS.

Mr. CHATHAM moved the adoption of the additional bye-laws for the disinfection of infected premises made by the Sanitary Board under Section 13 of the Public Health Ordinance, No. 13 of 1901. He said—No. 8 of these bye-laws is repealed and a new clause substituted, with a trifling variation in the wording, which, however, will have no serious effect on the clause. It was considered advisable by the Crown Solicitor, in going into the matter, to make some slight modification in one place where it states:—"If the premises so visited or any part thereof shall be found in a dirty or insanitary condition, in the opinion of any such officer, he will report the same to the Medical Officer of Health or to any such other officer as may be appointed for that purpose by the Board with the approval of the Governor, who shall inspect such premises, and if he considers them or any part thereof to be in a dirty or insanitary condition he may forthwith take steps to have the said premises thoroughly cleansed and disinfected by persons acting under his instructions, and may, if he thinks fit, have all furniture and goods removed therefrom during such cleansing and disinfection." The words "if he thinks fit" have been added to the clause. Bye-law No. 9 is a new bye-law, and its object is to prevent the removal of infected articles from one district undergoing disinfection to another district. It confers upon officers of the Sanitary Board power to prevent that being done, thus avoiding the possibility of the spread of infection while the process of disinfection is going on.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded the motion, which was carried.

QUESTIONS.

Notice had previously been given of the following questions:—

1.—COLLAPSED BUILDINGS IN THE COLONY.

Mr. WHITEHEAD—Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works lay upon the Council table a statement showing:—

- (1) The number of buildings in the Colony which have fallen down, from 1st January, 1895, to 16th instant (August);
- (2) The names of the owners of the said buildings;
- (3) The number of deaths caused thereby;
- (4) The number of Coroner's enquiries held in connection with such deaths;
- (5) The number of prosecutions, if any, instituted as the result of the said enquiries; and
- (6) The causes, so far as ascertained, which have contributed to the tumbling down in each case, and, if the collapse of any or all of the buildings in question have resulted from defective construction, will the honourable member inform the Council:

- (1) What precautions, if any, have been taken to prevent the erection of such buildings in the future? and
- (2) What precautions, if any, have been taken to prevent a recurrence of a like calamity attended with such heavy loss of life as that which occurred in Cochrane Street on 14th instant in connection with buildings already in existence?

Mr. CHATHAM—I beg to lay upon the table a report which contains answers to Nos. 1 and 2 inclusive of the hon. member's question. With regard to No. 2, which forms the second portion of the question, the matters therein referred to are under the consideration of the Government.

2.—CORAL AND SHELL FISHERMEN.

Mr. WHITEHEAD—Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary inform the Council of the approximate number of fishermen employed in taking coral and shell from the sea adjoining the New Territory, and the names of the places where and about the extent of ground over which such fishing is carried on?

Colonial SECRETARY—In reply to question No. 2, I beg to lay on the table a report prepared by the Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police, which I trust, the hon. member will find contains the information he asks for.

The return showed that the total number of men employed is 1952, distributed over the follow-

ing localities:—Tsin Wan—approximate area, 1½ square miles; Ni Ku Chau and Ping Chau—3 square miles; Deep Bay—4 square miles; Rocky Harbour, Port Shelter, and Hebe Haven—7 square miles; Ping Chau (in Mirs Bay), Knob Reef, Flat Reef (both in Tolo Channel), and Centre Island (in Tolo Harbour)—approximate area not given. The approximate number of boats is 304 and of junks 90, making a total of 394.

3.—COCHRANE STREET COLLAPSE—DEPOSITIONS AT FIRST ENQUIRY.

Mr. WHITEHEAD—Will the Honourable the Attorney-General lay upon the table a copy of the depositions taken by the Magistrate at the enquiry, held at the Magistracy on 30th August last under Ordinance No. 7 of 1889, into the death of forty-three persons consequent upon the collapse or tumbling down of houses Nos. 32 and 34, Cochrane Street, on the night of 14th idem, together with a copy of the Magistrate's decision or finding thereon.

The depositions, in printed form, were laid on the table.

PUBLIC SERVICE OF YEAR 1902.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Three million seven hundred and forty thousand four hundred and one dollar and sixty-one cents to the Public Service of the year 1902. He said—In connection with this Ordinance, I beg to lay upon the table the papers which usually accompany such measures when they come before the Council for consideration. I would suggest that hon. members be afforded time to consider this Bill, so that when it comes up again they may be in a position to deal with the matter it contains in a thorough and satisfactory manner.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the bill was read a first time.

OTHER FIRST READINGS.

On the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the following Bills were read a first time:—

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend An Ordinance entitled The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1885 (No. 8 of 1885).

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The New Territories Land Court Ordinance 1900 (No. 18 of 1900).

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1901 (No. 13 of 1901).

A Bill entitled An Ordinance relating to Copyright in Works of the Fine Arts, and for repressing the commission of fraud in the production and sale of such works.

TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE.

Mr. BELL-IRVING moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 15 of 1887, and to remove any doubts as to the validity of any matters done under it.

Mr. CHATER seconded, and the motion was carried.

JURY CONSOLIDATION.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend the Jury Consolidation Ordinance, 1887. He said—The reasons for this measure are fully stated in the objects and reasons, which have been in the hands of hon. members for some time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, and, there being no alterations, on the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

TO AMEND PROBATES ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Probates Ordinance, 1897 (No. 3 of 1897). He said—The reasons for this measure are fully explained in the objects and reasons attached to the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, and on resuming, there being no alterations, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, 1899 (Ordinance 36

of 1899). He said—I think, sir, the reasons for the various amendments to this Ordinance will be found in the objects and reasons attached to the Bill. As hon. members will see from these objects and reasons, when the Council goes into committee on this Bill I intend to move two amendments, with reference to which a memorandum was circulated to hon. members together with the orders of the day. Of these two amendments, one is with regard to clause 2 of the Bill and the other with regard to section 8. I beg to move the second reading of this Bill, and I shall be very pleased to answer any questions in committee to the best of my ability. Perhaps I might mention with regard to this memorandum, dealing with the amendment to clause 2, that the clause I propose to insert is founded upon the same legislation now in force in the Straits Settlements, and the clause which it is proposed to add to the end of section 8 is taken almost verbatim from the section in the Straits Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, when the amendments proposed by the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL were agreed to.

On the Council resuming, the third reading was not moved, in order to afford the Chamber of Commerce an opportunity of considering the measure before it finally becomes law.

MANUFACTURE OF GUNPOWDER AND FIREWORKS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the manufacture of gunpowder and of fireworks, and to regulate the sale and conveyance of gunpowder. He said—As hon. members will see from the statement of objects and reasons, most of the provisions of this Bill are adapted from those of the English Explosives Act, 1876. I think, sir, this Bill provides a very necessary amendment in the law of this Colony, because the present Gunpowder Bill has been in force since 1848, and is a very primitive Ordinance indeed, although in the early years of this Colony it was amply sufficient. I have gone very carefully into this matter, and I have also had the opinion of the Captain Superintendent of Police, the Hon. F. H. May, upon the various points involved. I have also taken the opinion of the Government Analyst upon one or two points. I think, sir, this Bill will effect a great remedy in the law, and I beg to move that it be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill, and on resuming, there being no alterations, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

TO VALIDATE CROWN LEASES.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to validate Crown leases heretofore made of foreshore and submerged lands within the territorial waters of the Colony for reclamation and other purposes and to legalise and facilitate the making of such leases hereafter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Mr. WHITEHEAD—Sir, I beg to move as an amendment that this Bill be read this day six months. I am still of opinion that in this matter there is a violation of the expressly implied provisions of the agreement between the Imperial Government of China and the Government of Great Britain with regard to the acquisition of the New Territory. That being so, I wish to record my vote against the measure.

The motion of the Acting Attorney-General was put to the Council and carried, Mr. Whitehead being the only dissentient.

STAMPS AND STAMP DUTY.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws relating to Stamps and Stamp Duty in the Colony of Hongkong.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

H. E. the GOVERNOR—The Council will stand adjourned till this day week. Hon. members will understand that the Estimates will not be taken this day week.

MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the COLONIAL SECRETARY in the chair.

In the first minute the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$600 to cover the half salary of a second assistant marine surveyor for six months from the 17th August, 1901, at \$100 per month.

The vote was agreed to.

In the next minute the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$500 in aid of the vote of \$500 for "Medicine supplied to the New Territory."

COLONIAL SECRETARY—A large quantity of quinine was used in the New Territory, and if the experiments in this line are to continue it will be necessary to vote the money.

The vote was agreed to.

In the next minute the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$26,500 in aid of the following votes:

PUBLIC WORKS, ANNUALLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.	
1. Maintenance of Buildings	\$ 9,000.00
2. Miscellaneous Services	2,500.00
PUBLIC WORKS, EXTRAORDINARY.	
3. Survey of New Territory	15,000.00
Total,	\$26,500.00

The vote was agreed to.

In the last minute the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$50,000, being a Government grant in aid of the Queen Victoria Memorial Fund.

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

THE DEATH OF MR. FRANCIS.

REFERENCES IN SUPREME COURT.

A full sitting was held in the Supreme Court at ten o'clock on the 25th inst. for the purpose of expressing the sorrow and condolences of the legal profession in the Colony at the sudden death of Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., at Yokohama on the morning of the 22nd inst. Their Honours A. G. Wise (Acting Chief Justice) and T. Sercombe Smith (Acting Puisne Judge) presided, and beneath them sat Messrs. J. W. Norton Kyshe (Registrar), J. W. Jones (Acting Deputy Registrar), C. J. Xavier (Acting Registrar and Accountant), and L. d'Almada Castro (Clerk). The members of both branches of the profession present were:—Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General), Mr. F. A. Hazeland (Police Magistrate), Mr. E. H. Sharp, Mr. E. Robinson, Hon. Dr. Ho Kui (barristers-at-law), Mr. C. A. D. Melbonne (Chief Clerk, Magistracy), Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz (Member, Land Court), Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), and Messrs. J. Hastings, G. C. C. Master, H. Hursthorne, C. D. Wilkinson, J. S. Harston, E. J. Grist, K. W. Mounsey, F. X. d'Almada e Castro, O. D. Thomson, J. F. Reece, H. F. R. Brayne, E. A. Bonner, H. K. Holmes, J. Hays, F. B. Deacon, V. H. Deacon, N. H. Dennys, Ponfifex, and Wei On.

Acting Chief Justice Wise, at the first sound of whose voice all present rose to their feet, said—Mr. Pollock and gentlemen of both branches of the profession, my learned brother and I have called you here because we felt that the sad news which reached the Colony last Sunday morning could not be passed over without some expression on our part of the great loss sustained by ourselves and by the members of the legal profession, of which the late Mr. Francis was such a conspicuous ornament. It so happens that there are not many members of the profession now resident in Hongkong who had a longer acquaintance with Mr. Francis than myself. When I first began to practise here he was the first to welcome me, to encourage me, and to advise me to continue to practise at the Bar, advice which, for reasons of my own, I did not take. In subsequent years his advice and experience were always at my disposal, and I invariably profited by them. Afterwards, when I had the honour to take a seat on this Bench, I found his legal knowledge and attainments and his experience of the Colony of great assistance to me. There are many of us who have had differences of opinion with Mr. Francis, for as he once said to me,

"I dearly love a fight in Court," but all of these differences ended at the door of this Court, and outside, I am sure you will agree with me, it would have been difficult to find a more genial or more generous friend. I do not propose to go into the history of Mr. Francis's career during the years he was resident in this Colony, for that has already been done, but I don't think it is too much to say that there are few in this world who have had a more varied career. More than twenty years ago Mr. Francis was a soldier. He then joined the legal profession and became a member of one of the leading firms of solicitors in this Colony, afterwards becoming an eminent barrister in the Colony. Gentlemen, that in my opinion was a record of which any man should be proud, because it was all done by his own unaided talents. In many other directions also Mr. Francis was of great assistance in the Colony, but as they are not connected with our profession I do not propose to enter into that subject at all. It simply now remains to ask you to join us in expressing our sincere sorrow and regret at the loss to the Colony and the legal profession in the Colony sustained by the sudden death of Mr. Francis. A few days ago he left us apparently in good health, and now he is gone. Gentlemen, I will also ask you to join us in offering our condolences to the unhappy lady who in this terrible and unexpected manner has been bereaved at once of a husband and companion in life.

Mr. POLLOCK, who spoke with evident feeling, replied—My Lords, on behalf of the members of the legal profession in this Colony, I would desire to express our most hearty concurrence in the eloquent tribute your Lordship has just paid our deceased friend, Mr. Francis. We would also desire to associate ourselves with your Lordships in the expression of sympathy and condolence which you have expressed with his widow upon the sudden loss which has befallen her. My Lords, when I first appeared as a barrister in this Court, over thirteen years ago, I was acting as a junior to our departed friend. At that time he occupied a pre-eminent position amongst the Bar in this Colony, and that pre-eminent position he continued to occupy until his sad and sudden death a few days ago. My Lords, not only in the legal profession was the deceased gentleman conspicuous, but he also rendered distinguished public services in this Colony, and I think that the work which he carried out with his usual vigour and thoroughness as Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board in the first plague epidemic of 1894 will not readily be forgotten by those who have the sanitary welfare of this Colony at heart. It is hardly too much to say, my Lords, that for the last fifteen years the deceased gentleman was prominently identified with every matter of important public interest in this Colony, and the China Association, the Navy League, and the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society will all have cause to regret his loss. As secretary of the two latter bodies I was brought into very frequent and close contact with Mr. Francis, and I found him on every occasion a most able and willing helper in the work of these bodies. Doubtless your Lordships will allow me to mention, in connection with the private life of the deceased, a fact which is perhaps not sufficiently well known—namely, that he had on many occasions performed acts of charity in a quiet and unostentatious manner, and I think, my Lords, there must be many persons now in this Colony to whom the sad news of his death will have come home with a very keen sense of personal loss, and I would venture to predict, my Lords, that when the striking, though somewhat transient, triumphs of the advocate are forgotten, the kind deeds which the deceased gentleman has performed will ever remain green in the lives and hearts of those who benefited by them, a lasting memorial to him, which will not be effaced.

The Court then adjourned *sine die*.

On the 18th inst. at H.B.M.'s Supreme Court, Shanghai, F. G. Keeling, proprietor of the St. George's Hotel, for unjustifiably assaulting and wounding a Chinaman with a hoe, was sentenced by His Honour Chief Justice Wilkinsen to three months' imprisonment with hard labour. The assault took place in the neighbourhood of Jessfield on the 15th July. The accused pleaded that he acted in self-defence.

SECOND ENQUIRY INTO COCHANE STREET COLLAPSE.

The enquiry was resumed at 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 21st inst.

Mr. F. Pearson said he was employed by Mr. E. M. Hazeland, civil engineer, as clerk of works and general assistant. He had formerly been an overseer in the Public Works Department, and whilst so employed was an inspector of buildings. He left the P.W.D. at the end of June last year, and joined Mr. Hazeland the month following. When he was in the P.W.D., the staff engaged under the Building Ordinance consisted of Mr. Tooker, Mr. Hazeland, and himself. The first thing witness did in connection with No. 32, Cochrane Street last year was to examine the walls of the house, at the request of Mr. Hazeland. He kept no diary or record of his work, and could not tell the exact date of the examination. It was, however, somewhere about the commencement of November last. Mr. Hazeland said the owner wanted to raise the house by the addition of another story, and told witness to examine the walls to see if they were in accordance with the Building Ordinance. Mr. Hazeland did not tell him to cut into the walls or to examine the foundations, nor did he say what extra weight was to be put on the walls. Witness found the walls all right by looking at them, and saw they were in accordance with the Building Ordinance. This he judged by measuring their thickness. No cracks could be seen. The houses were occupied at the time, but witness did not move any of the property of the tenants in the course of his inspection; he could examine the walls without moving anything, even those in the blacksmith's shop without disturbing the sheet iron that rested against the walls. Witness went into the next house and examined the wall at the same spot to make sure.

Mr. Bowley—Can you see through a brick wall?

Witness—I cannot.

Did you remove any of the whitewash or dirt to examine them?—I did not.

Did you use a plumb line at all?—No, I could see without a plumb line that the walls were straight. There was no indication of any crushing and the walls appeared to be plumb.

As a matter of fact, it was not possible to see the whole of these party walls from the ground floor to the coping?—Oh no, because the floors were in the way.

How long did the inspection of No. 32 take you?—About twenty minutes.

Did you report to Mr. Hazeland about these walls?—Yes.

In writing or verbally?—Verbally.

Did you afterward make an inspection of No. 34 with the same object?—Yes, three or four weeks later.

Was this inspection similar to that of No. 32?—Exactly similar.

And you reported on No. 34 in the same way, I suppose?—I did. I told Mr. Hazeland the walls were in accordance with the Building Ordinance.

You are familiar with the Ordinance?—Yes, rather.

Witness said he knew there were certain stipulations about examining the foundations.

And how could you tell the foundations were all right without examining them?—I could not tell.

Witness explained that when he was in the P.W.D., when an architect sent a plan of additions or alterations, the foundations were never shown, nor were they ever required by the P.W.D. to be shown. Witness said he was familiar with the amended provisions of Section 10 of the Ordinance requiring walls to be solid, properly bonded, and substantially put together with good material.

And how could you tell the walls complied with that section without opening them?—I could not tell.

Is it not the rule that the lower story must not be built of blue brick, unless allowed by the Surveyor General?—No, it is never required, when alterations or additions are being made, that the bricks of the ground floor should be of red brick.

As a matter of fact this wall was blue brick throughout?—Yes.

His Worship—What is your opinion of the

cause of the collapse?—In my opinion it was probably caused by the outlets becoming blocked, thus preventing the water, after a heavy down-pour of rain, from getting away from the flat roof and causing it to soak into the wall. The same thing happened a few years ago at the Queen's Road entrance to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Mr. Bowley—Have you had any training as a surveyor or civil engineer?—I was assistant surveyor for years to the Cape Government Railways.

Did you serve any apprenticeship?—No. I came out here and was taken on in connection with the work on the Tytam Waterworks. When that work was finished I was employed in turn by Danby and Orange, Palmer and Turner, and W. Danby, until I joined the P.W.D.

Mr. J. L. Stewart, draughtsman in Mr. Hazelton's office, was next called. He said he only joined last year, and had had no previous experience. Witness measured No. 32, Cochrane Street, last year, in November, and No. 34 later. He drew plans B and D, but did not make tracing C, nor the original of it. The measurements he took in order to make the plans were the depth and width of the ground floor and of the yards and kitchens, also the height of the ground and first and second floors. He spent a quarter of an hour over each house. The dotted lines on the section of plan B represented the foundations of the internal cross wall. These foundations were now work. The details of the plan were then discussed. On plan E the ground floor measurement, 34 feet 6 inches, was an internal measurement. The measurement, 36 feet 4 inches on plan B was an external measurement, although marked as an internal measurement. This was a mistake on the plan. As a matter of fact, witness thought the houses were of the same depth. In each of the two houses there were formerly two cross walls, but he did not think it was necessary to show these on the plans. He had shown all the new work. He did not think it necessary to show the foundations of the old walls and he did not see them. Mr. Hazelton told him to make the new wall 50 feet high from the foundation. It was not necessary in witness's opinion to show any staircases in plan E. In plan B they were shown, but he just happened to think of it. Mr. Hazelton saw the plan, but did not take any particular notice of it.

I. M. Xavier, A.M.I.C.E., assistant engineer in the Public Works Department, said he had been in the Department for fourteen years. He took charge of Building Ordinance work under Mr. Tooker on 1st May, 1900, on the resignation of Mr. Hazelton. On the staff under him at first were Mr. Pearson who acted as overseer, and a Chinese clerk who gave part of his services. Mr. Pearson resigned on 15th June last year, and after that witness had the whole services of the Chinese clerk, who did the clerical work. Witness had no overseer after 15th June. He himself gave up Building Ordinance work on 9th November last year, up to which date, from 15th June, he was single-handed. Besides work under the Building Ordinance, witness had three or four Public Works Extraordinary under his charge.

Mr. Bowley—Then it will come to this, that for five months you had the supervision of all the private building work in the Colony, without any assistance whatever?—Yes.

Was it possible for you, single-handed, to exercise effective supervision over all the building work going on in the Colony?—No, not effective supervision.

His Worship—Did you report that to the head of your Department?—Yes, I reported the matter in writing.

Mr. Bowley—To whom?—To Mr. Tooker, about the end of June.

On the 9th of November, to whom did you hand over the work?—To Mr. Crisp, under instructions from Mr. Tooker.

Witness said notice A, referring to No. 32, dated 3rd November, passed through his hands; plan B was attached. It was the practice to send these plans to the Medical Officer of Health. The plan was simply given to witness to note that it had been approved by Mr. Tooker, and it was not his duty to examine it to see that it complied with the Building Ordinance, except when particularly requested to do so.

That duty devolved on Mr. Tooker. Witness at no time went to No. 32, Cochrane Street, and it was not necessarily his duty to see a building when any plan concerning it came into his hands, although it was sometimes done.

Mr. Bowley—And why not necessarily?—Because the plan gives us the information we want.

How do you know the plan is correct?—We take it for granted, if the plan is submitted by regular architect, that the information contained therein is correct.

Witness said there was nothing in plan B to show that the walls were not made of blue brick, or that they were properly bonded and solid throughout.

Mr. Bowley—Is there anything in that plan (B) to show that the walls have got any foundation whatever?—No.

And why is it unnecessary for you to inspect the building?—It is not necessary unless we have reason to suppose there is something wrong with the plan.

Did you take Mr. Crisp round to show him his work?—I showed him the various districts in the Colony, but not any particular work.

Mr. P. T. Crisp, inspector of buildings, at P.W.D., said he arrived in the Colony on 8th November last year, and reported himself at the P.W.D. at twelve o'clock noon. There was no actual handing over of the work by Mr. Xavier, but witness went out with him off and on for a fortnight. Part of the time witness was by himself. He went out to find the names of streets, etc. From notice A, witness saw that he had measured the width of Cochrane Street, but was not sure whether Mr. Xavier assisted him. That was on 13th November, and witness never went into No. 32 either before or during the alterations, as he had too much to do, and was strange to the Colony. In fact, up till Christmas he did no actual inspection. On 14th May he made a note of the fact that the verandah at No. 32 had been completed. This he did at the request of Mr. Tooker. Witness simply went up the street and saw from there that the verandah was completed. In no other way had witness inspected No. 32. As to No. 34, he measured the width of the street on 14th December, and beyond that he never had anything to do with the house before the accident.

Mr. Bowley—Since you arrived in the Colony, have you been the only inspector or overseer of private buildings?—Yes.

For the whole Colony?—Yes.

Witness had already given evidence at the former hearing, and had nothing to add to his opinion as to the cause of the collapse. Since then, however, he had visited the scene of the accident, and found among the debris iron rods with a nut at one end, and these rods had evidently been used for making a shelving or cockloft for storing iron pipes, etc. The iron rods were bolted through the floor joists, throwing extra weight on the floors. This had been done in the blacksmith's shop, and was a common practice in the Colony in such shops, where the floor joists had to carry many hundredweights more than they were ever intended to carry. The woodwork entering the wall from the wooden bearers caused a lot of cutting up of the party walls, and the vibration attending the work in the blacksmith's shop might have contributed to the collapse.

His Worship—I wonder if there is any authority for collapses being caused by vibration. Perhaps Mr. Tooker can tell us.

Mr. Tooker—Oh, yes, it is a common thing, your Worship. Railways passing under streets often cause collapses.

Mr. Bowley—Do you think it is safe, Mr. Crisp, to have a blacksmith's shop on the ground floor of a house of this class?—If it was perfect brick-work it would be absolutely safe, but with defective walls it is not safe.

In your experience in England, have you ever seen a smithy's shop with a tenement house over it?—In my experience I have never seen a smithy under a tenement house. The smithy is generally an addition or onhouse.

This concluded the examination of the witness, and the hearing was adjourned till Monday morning at ten o'clock.

Before proceeding with the enquiry on the 23rd inst., Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, referring to the sudden death at Yokohama of

Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., said—Before proceeding with the business of the Court, I would ask your Worship to allow me to refer to the great loss which the legal profession in the whole Colony has sustained in the terribly sudden death of a familiar figure in this Court, the senior member of the local Bar, Mr. Francis, K.C., who at one time sat upon the Bench your Worship now occupies. For over 30 years he had been identified with this Colony, and had practised in its Courts with distinguished success; and we have become so accustomed to resort to his extensive knowledge and ripe experience in all difficulties that his loss will cause a gap in the Colony which must long remain unfilled. We mourn the loss to-day of a great lawyer, an eloquent and convincing speaker, and a personal friend. I am sure your Worship and all present will join in an expression of deepest sympathy with his sorrowing widow in her bereavement.

His Worship replied—Mr. Bowley, I am sure it was a terrible shock not only to myself but to everybody in the Colony when we heard the sad news of the great loss sustained by the legal profession in this Colony by the sudden death of Mr. Francis. With reference to the remarks you have just made, I re-echo them entirely, and I think I need hardly dilate on Mr. Francis's excellent qualities both as a lawyer and a man. As far as I am personally concerned, I may say I have lost a great friend. I may also mention that there is a personal element in the matter, and that is—he always carried a very high opinion of me owing to the fact that my father, the then Crown Solicitor, was one of Mr. Francis's examiners when he was admitted to practice in Hongkong. I am sure that great sympathy will be extended—is extended—to the widow in her suffering.

The enquiry was then proceeded with.

Yang Tang, the managing partner of the blacksmith's shop at Cochrane Street, No. 32, said he was now carrying on business at 41, Wing On Street. Questioned by Mr. Bowley, he proceeded to detail the nature of the work that had been carried on in Cochrane Street. It was all done in the ground floor, he said, and small iron brackets were driven into the wall on each side for the storing of iron pipes, etc. This admission the witness was very reluctant to make. No iron was stored on the verandah of the first floor, not a scrap.

Sergeant Garrod was the next witness. He deposed that when he got to the scene of the collapse in Cochrane Street he saw a fire in the north-east corner of No. 32, apparently on the ground floor. It took about an hour to extinguish it. The front walls and verandahs of both houses, Nos. 32 and 34, had fallen out into the road, and the party wall between them had fallen down inside, leaving standing at the back a portion ten feet in height. The floors in each house had fallen at an angle towards each other, leaving the higher portions leaning against the standing walls. Witness was on special duty for ten days clearing up the debris. The supports for the verandahs were found in the side channels on the east side of the street; they had practically fallen right down. There was nothing seen to indicate that material had been stored on the verandahs. When turning over the debris on the ground floor of No. 32, witness came upon a large quantity of iron rods and pipes in the blacksmith's shop. This had evidently been stored on the north side, but there were no indications of any iron having been stored on the south side. There was nothing of the nature of a cockloft or shelving for iron pipes seen.

The blacksmith was recalled, and denied the existence of a shelving suspended from the joists above for the storing of iron pipes such as sketched by Mr. Crisp, inspector of buildings, when he gave his evidence on Saturday. The owner, Chan Tsun Chang, was also recalled and questioned as to the position of the cockloft for storing beams and planks situated in the shop on the ground floor at No. 34 of Wing On, contractor. The cockloft ran right across the shop at the back, from party wall to party wall, and was ten feet deep. It was there when witness bought the house. He did not notice a similar cockloft in the blacksmith's shop. Witness, when the alterations were going on, moved the staircases out towards the street.

The cubicles in the houses were put up by the tenants themselves. It was the case that the head of each staircase rested against a beam, which went right across the house from party wall to party wall. The beam was larger and stronger than ordinary floor joists. To move the staircases the beams on the first and second floors had to be moved.

Mr. H. P. Tooker, who is one of those already examined, said he carried out the duties of the Director of Public Works under the Building Ordinance, and had done so since April, 1890—nearly twelve years. During that period the work had increased enormously, and from the time witness took over his duties up till June of 1900 the staff consisted of an assistant engineer and an overseer, besides himself. For a number of years Mr. Hazelton was his assistant, and he was succeeded by Mr. Xavier. Before Mr. Hazelton took over the duties of assistant engineer, Mr. Semple filled that position, and witness had the whole of his time for Building Ordinance work. Mr. Hazelton followed Mr. Semple in 1892, and both he and Mr. Xavier were sometimes taken away for other work. Mr. Pearson, who resigned in June last year, gave his whole time to the work, and after he resigned there was no one but Mr. Xavier, who in turn handed over the whole of his work to Mr. Crisp. The staff assisting witness was now reduced from an assistant engineer and an overseer to an overseer only.

Mr. Bowley—Your Worship will see that there is a beautiful sliding scale, and all the time the work was increasing enormously.

Witness said the work had increased by at least three times, and he had made repeated representations to the head of the Department about the insufficiency of his staff. Of late witness had been able to give less time to work under the Building Ordinance because his other work had increased and the staff under him reduced. Witness said he received notice A and plans B and C (dealing with the houses 32 and 34 in Cochrane Street) early in November. It was his duty to see that plans were in accordance with the Building Ordinance, and then he passed them on to the Medical Officer of Health. The plans were given to Dr. Clark, who wanted the width of the street verified, and Mr. Crisp was sent to do the job. The width was found to be correct, and permit D was issued to the architect on 17th November last year. These proceedings were in connection with No. 32 and later the same procedure was followed in connection with No. 34. At no time before the accident did witness inspect the houses, nor did any other officer of the P.W.D. do so.

Mr. Bowley—Am I to take it, then, that there was no examination of any kind whatever by any officer of the Department, either before or after the approval of the plans?—There was no examination.

Excepting with the approval of the Director of Public Works, the old part of a building in which alterations are being made must comply with the new Building Ordinance?—Yes.

And is it the fact that except with the approval of the Director of Public Works all the walls of the lower story must be of red brick?—Yes.

And similarly no party wall can exceed 35ft. in length without a return or cross wall?—Yes.

On those three points the Director of Public Works has discretion whether he will allow the building or not?—Yes, but with reference to the last I have the instructions of the Director of Public Works not to enforce it in any case.

Was that direction the result of representations made by certain architects in this Colony?—Yes.

With regard to the bonding of brickwork and the thickness of walls, has the Director of Public Works any discretion?—There is a discretion as regards old buildings, but not new buildings.

And does it not come to this, that with respect to alterations and additions the Director of Public Works has discretion whether he will allow them or not?—Certainly.

Witness said he would rather not express an opinion on a point raised by Mr. Bowley as to whether the Surveyor-General, according to the Ordinance, was or was not legally bound to inspect such alterations and additions. From plans B and E he was of opinion that there were foundations to the old walls. It was the universal practice of architects not to show

foundations of old walls in plans, as it was impossible to show them correctly without opening them up, which was an unreasonable thing to expect.

Mr. Bowley—Is it the universal practice of the Public Work Department to approve of a plan submitted by a European architect without knowing whether the foundations are good or bad?—Yes.

Does the plan show whether the walls are of blue brick or red brick?—No.

Does it show whether they are properly bonded or not?—No, it couldn't show that.

Is it not necessary, then, to make a personal inspection on all these points before exercising the discretion of approving alterations and additions to old works?—It is desirable.

Is it possible to inspect foundations without opening them up?—No.

Is it possible to find out whether a wall is properly built without cutting a hole in it?—No.

Is it not possible that an 18in. wall may look very nice on the outside and yet consist of two 9in. walls built without any bonding between them?—Yes.

This plan (B) of No. 32 shows that the wall is to be raised 50 feet high, from the footing to the coping?—Yes, that is the maximum height allowed for the thickness shown.

Doesn't plan B show that the houses are built on a slope?—Yes.

Then the lower party wall must be of a greater height than the upper party wall?—Yes, unless the foundations of the lower party wall are deeper.

The elevation on plan B shows the height of the front wall to be at least 50 feet?—Yes.

Does it not appear, looking at plan B, that in all probability the lower party wall is higher than 50 feet?—No, not at all.

Witness, from a note he had prepared, said the floor level of No. 32 was a foot above the top of the footing, so that the plan was inaccurate. If the plan had been drawn correctly it would have shown that the wall was over 50 feet high, and therefore not in accordance with the Ordinance. In plan E (No. 34) the party wall was shown to be 50 feet high from a line six inches below the floor level. The footings, as a matter of fact, were 3 feet 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches below the floor level of No. 34, and if the wall had been built in accordance with the plan it must have been 53 feet 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, and therefore not of the thickness required by the Ordinance.

Mr. Bowley—Well, Mr. Tooker, if you had examined the foundations before approving these plans, you would have found out all these things?—No, it is never the practice of the P.W.D. to examine the foundations. That is left to the architect.

The Court here adjourned for tiffin.

On resuming, Mr. Tooker again went into the witness box. He said that in houses built on a slope like those in Cochrane Street he would not expect the average depth of the foundations to be six inches below the floor level. As a rule the least depth would be more than six inches. It depended on the nature of the ground. In regard to the plans for the houses, it was usual, when submitting plans for alterations and additions, to show all the existing work as well as the new work, but the plans for Cochrane Street, B and E, did not show the existing work, and there was nothing in them to show cross walls in the houses. That was rather an important omission in the case of such old party walls. There was nothing in the plans to show that the staircases were to be moved, and in the plan of No. 34 no staircases were shown at all, nor were any foundations shown for the new internal cross wall. The removal of the staircase would probably tend to weaken the party wall. No detailed drawings of the verandah of No. 34 were submitted to the P.W.D. With regard to No. 32, the plan was submitted to and approved by the Governor, but the owner did not sign the necessary agreement regarding the prospective verandah. That was the reason Mr. Crisp was sent in May to find out whether or not the verandah had been constructed. Witness remembered reading an article in the *China Mail* in August, 1899, regarding jerry-building in Hongkong, which gave rise to considerable discussion. Before that time there were several collapses, and since then there had been more.

Most of these latter, however, were due to the typhoon in last November, witness thought.

Mr. Bowley—And knowing that fact, why did you approve these plans?—The causes of the collapses should be enquired into first before I answer that question.

Were they not owing to defective building?—No, I don't think so.

You admit you had discretion in the matter. Why did you approve these plans?—We could have told the architects we would not approve them until they had opened up the foundations.

Why didn't you do it?—We had no orders to do it.

You might have refused to sign these permits?—We could not tell the architect we had no time to inspect this building.

Was there anything to compel you to sign these permits?—If the plans are in accordance with the Building Ordinance we must sign them.

You have seen the houses, Mr. Tooker. Now, is there anything to indicate that there were deviations from the plans for the alterations and additions?—Yes.

What are they?—On the ground floor of No. 34 there is an arch instead of a cross wall, and opening into the kitchen there is an archway instead of a door. There is no internal cross wall as shown in the plan, nor are there any chimneys in accordance with the plan. There is a pipe flue to serve the ground floor only, and that is not in accordance with the plan.

Did you notice any cutting in the party wall of the cookhouses?—I did. There is a recess in the party wall between Nos. 34 and 36, in the cookhouses on the first floor. It is about 2ft. 6in. square and about 9in. deep. It appeared to be new work.

Did you see anything on the roof?—On the roof there was a superstructure of brickwork about 7ft. high and about 5ft. square. It appeared to be used as a cookhouse. Alongside this cookhouse was another superstructure which had partly broken away.

What had it been used for?—I cannot say. And now as regards No. 34. What deviations from the plan did you notice there?—On the ground floor was an arch instead of a cross-wall. The internal crosswall was not there at all. There were no chimneys as shown in the plan, and there was a similar superstructure to that at No. 34 on the roof, but not so high, though nearly so. The sides of this superstructure appeared to be built on the party wall between 32 and 34.

We have it that the height of the party wall was 53ft. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. With that superstructure on the top, that would make the wall somewhere about 60ft. high?—Superstructures of that nature are not considered as part of the main wall.

As far as you can judge, did any of these deviations you have mentioned contribute towards the accident?—I think they would contribute in a slight degree, but I don't think the chimneys or the superstructures on the roof contributed to the collapse.

His Worship—They were bound to have added to the weight.—They did not add to the weight of that portion of the wall which gave way. I think the absence of the internal cross wall would tend to weaken the building.

Mr. Bowley—I think you have already given us your opinion as to the cause of the collapse?—Yes, and I am still of the same opinion.

Do you consider the work in the blacksmith's shop would tend to weaken the wall?—I think it would have a little effect that way, but not very much.

Was the collapse caused by the additional weight placed on the party wall through the additions and alterations?—I don't think so. The wall would have come down sooner or later.

It might have stood for years?—I doubt it.

Can you tell me the number of inmates allowed by law to occupy these houses?—Practically 55 people to each house.

Before or after the alterations?—After the alterations.

Can you give us any idea as to how many Chinese houses have had another story added to them during the year 1900?—Plans were deposited during the year for raising 189 houses an extra s'ory.

His Worship—I suppose these extra stories have been added?—The plans were approved and permits issued.

This concluded the examination of Mr. Tooker, who asked for and was granted permission to make the following statement:—

"I arrived in the Colony in April, 1890, and was placed in charge of Building Ordinance work and also of work carried out under the heading 'Annual Recurrent Expenditure.' That included maintenance of Government buildings, maintenance of the public cemetery, maintenance of the Praya wall and piers, maintenance of lighthouses, maintenance of all roads in the Colony, lighting the city with gas, maintenance of public recreation ground, and maintenance of other works of a miscellaneous nature. Mr. Brown was then Surveyor, and my staff consisted at that time of one assistant engineer, two overseers of roads, three overseers of buildings, one overseer in charge of the cemetery, and one overseer of Building Ordinance work, besides two or three native foremen. Mr. Cooper succeeded Mr. Brown in 1891, and he gave me then another assistant engineer, and added maintenance of telegraphs to my work. This staff was maintained up till the time I went on leave in March, 1897. I returned to the Colony in March, 1898, and Mr. Ormsby, who was then Director of Public Works, told me I would have to do with one assistant engineer—Mr. Hazeland, who was nearly all his time on Building Ordinance work. Mr. Ormsby added to my work maintenance of buildings in the New Territory and maintenance of telegraphs in the New Territory. I was invalidated home in October, 1898, and returned again to the Colony in December, 1899. My staff then consisted of one assistant engineer, two overseers of roads, four overseers of buildings, one overseer of the cemetery, one overseer of the recreation ground, and a few native foremen. The principal overseer of Government buildings resigned in June, 1900, and his place was not filled up at the time. It was not till 1st November, 1900, that an assistant overseer was appointed locally to look after Government building work. In the meantime the principal overseer of roads, in October, 1900, went home on sick leave, but died on the passage. His place was not filled up until the other day, and I was left with one overseer of roads and telegraphs all over the Colony and of telegraphs in the New Territory until the beginning of 1901, when I was given the services of an assistant overseer. He was a sick man and could do very little, and was taken away again in February, 1901, thus leaving me with one overseer for roads and telegraphs until about the middle of the year, when I got the assistance of Mr. Carroll, who was formerly overseer of sewers. He worked with me for about a month and then had to go home on sick leave. I was again left with one overseer of roads and telegraphs until just recently, when another overseer was appointed for roads and two more Portuguese foremen. That is all I have to say."

Mr. Bowley—I should like to ask Mr. Tooker one question. When Mr. Crisp arrived Mr. Xavier gave over all his duties to him?—Yes.

I want to know why this was done.—Mr. Ormsby told him to do it.

Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works, said he was absent from the Colony from May, 1900, to March, 1901. Before becoming Acting Director of Public Works he had had nothing to do with the Building Ordinance, and therefore had had nothing to do with the two houses in Cochrane Street until after the collapse. He had inspected the remains of the houses since the collapse, and in his opinion the only cause of the accident was the badly-built party wall between the two houses. The addition of a new story, witness had very little doubt, contributed to the collapse. The foundations of the party wall had been opened; and witness, from what he saw, thought they appeared to be good—strong enough to bear the weight of another story. The ground under the foundations was good. Had witness been consulted as to the feasibility of adding another story to these houses, he, as a professional man, would have considered it necessary to examine the walls carefully, knowing the building to be an old one, and if the walls, from an external examination in the first instance, and an internal examination afterwards by cutting them open, were found satisfactory, he would then calculate

what weight would come upon the walls by the proposed additions.

Mr. Bowley—Would you have thought it necessary to examine the foundations?—Well, it would have been a prudent thing to do.

Do you think the carrying on of a blacksmith's trade would tend to weaken the walls?—Light smithy work would not weaken them, so long as there was no machinery attached to the walls in carrying on the work.

Would the operation of taking down a cross-wall and moving staircases have a weakening effect?—Well, it would have a disturbing effect on whatever walls the cross wall was connected with.

His Worship—With reference to the adding of stories to houses, we are told that 189 Chinese houses were so raised during the year 1900. That appears to be a very great number—greater than ever I thought. It means one every second day.

This concluded the case, and Mr. Bowley proceeded to review the evidence. As he mentioned in re-opening the enquiry, it was quite clear that the deaths of these unfortunate people were caused by the collapse of the houses, and he took it that the object of the enquiry was to find out why the houses collapsed. In his opinion they had had overwhelming evidence from several expert engineers that the real cause was the faulty construction of the party wall between the two houses. That being so, the enquiry really limited itself to the finding out of the cause of the falling of the party wall, and his Worship would doubtless be of the opinion that its fall was brought about to a very great extent, if not altogether, by the addition of an extra story comprising heavy beams and brick work. There were, perhaps, minor causes, such as the soaking of rain into the building and the vibration caused by the work in the blacksmith's shop, but, in spite of these Mr. Bowley said he would submit that the main cause of the collapse was the addition of the new story to this old building, which was erected in 1878, and was originally a three-story house. Built, as houses were in those days, of blue brick, it had somehow, or other stood the wear and tear of usage and climate for some twenty-two years. Recently it changed hands, and the purchaser, seeing what was going on everywhere in the Colony, thought he would do the same as other house-owners and add another story. Before carrying out this idea he took professional opinion as to its feasibility, and went to work to find out if the walls were strong enough. The architect, who must have known how old the building was, did not take warning by the many collapses that had previously taken place, and thought it sufficient to send an overseer to look after the matter, with no instructions to make a careful examination of the building, but simply to look at the walls. The overseer went there and spent twenty minutes in each house. He never thought to look at the foundations, or even to scrape away the whitewash from any part of the walls, and did not even plumb them except with his eye. He did not cut into them to ascertain their solidity—he simply looked at them. Then along came the draughtsman to measure the houses. He spent fifteen minutes of his valuable time there, and took three measurements—breadth, depth, and height of each floor. From these three measurements he drew up the elaborate plans that had been produced in Court, each of them absolutely incorrect in several respects. The time he spent in each house was fifteen minutes. Then the plans were made out, omitting some important information that should have been included. They did not show two old cross walls that had to come down, and no foundations whatever except to the new wall. The height of the wall itself was mere guess-work—in one plan no staircases were shown at all. These plans were thought to be sufficient to send up to the Public Works Department, where they were given a cursory glance to by that very much overworked official, the Executive Engineer under the Building Ordinance. They then went to the Medical Officer of Health, whose only doubts were as to the height of the walls in respect of the width of the street. Accordingly an overseer was sent to measure the width of the street to satisfy the Medical Officer of Health, and the Director of Public Works, or, rather, Mr. Tooker on his behalf, issued a

permit for the alterations and additions proposed. Under the Building Ordinance Mr. Bowley submitted that the Director of Public Works had absolute discretion in the matter of granting or refusing permits for additions or alterations to old buildings, yet no one in the Public Works Department ever took the trouble to find out whether the requirements of the Ordinance as to such alterations and additions were being fulfilled. From the beginning to the end no one ever thought to go and look at the foundations, and it appeared as though the foundations had nothing whatever to do with the matter. The plans, after the formal approval of the Director of Public Works, were handed to the contractor or architect, and then the work of hacking and cutting the old party wall was commenced, till by degrees this death-trap, warranted to hold 55 people, was erected. No one ever inspected the work, from the commencement to the finish. This was a matter which not only concerned the tenants; it concerned the man in the street, who supposed that the Public Works Department in this Colony protected him against houses falling upon him. The Ordinance said, continued Mr. Bowley, that "the Director of Public Works shall inspect a building during alterations." It was the duty of the official in charge to refuse to sign these permits until he had satisfied himself on all points. It was no excuse in law, because a man had no time to do a certain duty, that that duty should remain undone. If he had no time to inspect the building it was in his power to refuse to sign the permit, or he might have referred the matter to the Government and thrown the responsibility on it. Mr. Bowley submitted that the persons to blame in the matter of the collapse were: In the first place, the architect on whose professional knowledge the owner relied, but who made no examination at all of the houses concerned; secondly, the official responsible in the Public Works Department, who, without making any examination whatever, passed the plans; and thirdly, the head of the Department, who had allowed the staff in charge of the duties of the Building Ordinance to dwindle down gradually, although the work was increasing, until it consisted of—Mr. Crisp. He had actually taken away the assistant engineer in charge of building work and appointed nobody save one overseer who had just come out to the Colony and hardly knew his way about the street. In this way the Building Ordinance had been allowed to dwindle down to a mere farce. Mr. Bowley, in conclusion, asked his Worship to bring in a verdict, in addition to his previous finding, that the deaths of these people were due to the adding of a new story to the rotten party wall, and that the architect who recommended the addition and the parties who sanctioned it were guilty of gross negligence.

His Worship—I shall have to take a little time to consider the evidence, and will give my verdict on Wednesday morning at ten o'clock.

VERDICT.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Police Magistrate, on the 25th inst, returned the following verdict as to the Cochrane Street house collapse:

The evidence in this enquiry does not disclose what was the immediate cause of the collapse of No. 32 and No. 34, Cochrane Street on the night of the 14th day of August, 1901.

The following conditions and circumstances in my opinion probably contributed to the said collapse:—

(1) The existence of a blacksmith shop on the ground floor of No. 32, Cochrane Street. It was proved in evidence that vibration has a tendency to weaken the walls of a house.

(2) On the ground floor of No. 34, Cochrane Street was a cockloft used by the tenant, who was a contractor, for storing beams and planks.

(3) The defective construction of the party wall between No. 32 and No. 34, Cochrane Street. It was proved in evidence that the said party wall was badly bonded, and that the heart of the said wall was hollow and filled up with small pieces of bricks.

(4) The existence of an extra story, which was put on each of the said houses six or seven months prior to the collapse.

(5) That the showery weather prior to the collapse, hot one hour and then a heavy shower, would have caused a considerable contraction

and expansion of the material, and, acting on the old walls, would have considerably tended to the collapse.

(6) That there was a deviation by the owner from the approved plans while altering the said two houses, the principal deviation being the building of an arch instead of a wall and the total absence of internal cross walls.

Putting myself in the position of a coroner's jury, I make the following suggestions or riders:

(a) That the existence of blacksmiths' shops under tenements should be prohibited.

(b) That all cocklofts used for storing heavy material be also prohibited.

(c) That all buildings or work under the Building Ordinance be carried out under the superintendence of a European architect.

(d) That the provisions of Section 72 of the Building Ordinance, which casts upon the Director of Public Works the responsibility and duty of approving only of such alterations and additions to old work or buildings as will render the building, with the said alterations and additions, absolutely safe (except in cases where the whole of such work or buildings, including the old portion of the structure, when completed, complies with the provisions of the Ordinance) be carried strictly into effect.

(e) That the provisions of Section 75 of the Building Ordinance, which casts upon the Director of Public Works or officers deputed by him the imperative duty of entering, inspecting and surveying every building work in progress, for securing the due observance of the provisions of the Ordinance, be carried strictly into effect.

(f) That the staff of the Public Works Department at present employed to carry out the provisions of the Building Ordinance is insufficient, and ought to be increased without delay.

THE LATE PLAGUE EPIDEMIC.

The following is the body of the report by Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, on the epidemic of plague in the Colony during the half-year ended 30th June, as published in the *Gazette*:

Cases.—The total number of cases reported during the half-year has been 1,488, of which 26 were Europeans and 1,415 were Chinese, the remaining 47 being other Asiatics. A large number of Chinese, however, left the Colony as soon as they felt at all ill, some of whom showed unmistakeable signs of the disease on arrival at Canton and its neighbourhood.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths recorded during the half-year was 1,417, of which 9 were Europeans, 1,376 Chinese, and the remaining 23 other Asiatics. The latter comprised 14 Indians, 2 Parsees, 10 Asiatic Portuguese, 3 Malays, 2 Japanese, and 1 Eurasian.

The death-rate among the Europeans was therefore 34.6 per cent., while among the Chinese it was 97.2 per cent., and among the other Asiatics 68.1 per cent.; the total mortality being 95.2 per cent. This high rate is largely accounted for by the fact that 21.7 per cent. of the Chinese cases were dead bodies found in the Streets or in the Harbour.

The percentage of Chinese admitted to Hospital—including the Tung Wah Branch Hospital—was 35.1 per cent., while the percentage of other Asiatics that went to Hospital was 80.8 per cent. The death-rate among the Chinese admitted to Hospital was 88.5 per cent. as against the general Chinese mortality of 97.2 per cent. This ought to convince the Chinese—if anything will—that admission to Hospital is to their advantage.

The death-rate during each epidemic has been as follows:—

1894 1896 1898 1899 1900 1901

Percentage }	92.7	89.5	89.0	96.1	95.5	95.2
Mortality }						

European Cases.—Most of the European cases during the present epidemic have been more or less directly associated with the finding of dead rats upon the premises, although it must be admitted that many dead rats have at the same time been found in European offices and dwellings in which the disease has not broken out. Cantlie states, moreover, "that in certain limited outbreaks, such as that recently (1900) experienced at Glasgow, the rat has not been proved to be infected at all"; on the other hand

Ashburton Thompson states, in reference to the outbreak in Sydney in 1900, "that the infection was disseminated by rats appears tolerably certain." The following is a very brief summary of the European cases:—

The first Europeans to be attacked were three assistants in a drug store—two of whom were reported on the same date, and the third a few days later; two of these patients succumbed to the disease. A considerable number of Chinese women are employed by this firm in packing drugs for the Chinese market, and it is more than possible that they may have introduced the infection into the building.

The next European case to occur was an employee at the Naval Yard, who had been more or less in ill-health since he arrived in the Colony a year previously, and who died of the disease. A large number of Chinese are employed in the Naval Yard, some of whom had died of the disease, and it is believed that the infection was contracted from one of them.

This man would appear to have infected the building in which he lived, as subsequently three other European cases occurred there, all of whom recovered. On the day following the report of the above cases another European employee at the Naval Yard was reported to be suffering from plague, and in the block of buildings in which he resided, four other European cases subsequently occurred, one being the wife of the first patient, and two of the other being husband and wife, while in addition, one European who had resided there, and one Asiatic Portuguese who had been employed there, also contracted the disease. There were also three Chinese cases in this block of buildings, one of which occurred two days previous to the first European case. Of the above six European cases, only one died.

An European in charge of a bicycle-shop next contracted the disease, probably from a Parsee case in the same building; the Parsee died, but the European recovered.

One case occurred in the European quarters attached to one of the private docks, where also a large number of Chinese are employed. This patient also recovered.

A mild case occurred in an employee of the Telegraph Company who resided in a Chinese tenement house in which a number of rats were found.

A publican residing in Wanchai also succumbed to the disease.

Two cases occurred in an hotel (husband and wife), one of whom died; on the day previous to that on which these two cases developed, a Chinaman in the same building had died of the disease, after having been sick for at least two days.

The wife of another publican next contracted the disease and recovered, and on the same day two cases (mother and daughter) were reported from a dwelling in the Queen's Road, situated over a wine-store in which a number of rats had been found. It is also reported that two Chinese servants employed in this dwelling had left about seven days previous, without notice and probably in consequence of sickness.

A gentleman employed in a German firm was ill in his own quarters over a ship-chandler's store for about nine days with fever, which proved, after death, to have been plague.

A Sapper, who had arrived in the Colony only about a fortnight previously, died of the disease after two days' illness. He had visited a Chinese house seven days before he was taken ill.

Another gentleman employed by a German mercantile firm developed a very mild attack of the disease from which he recovered.

The last European case to occur during the half-year was a lady residing at a boarding-house. A dead rat was found in this lady's sitting-room nine days previous to her being taken ill, and a number of rats had also been caught in the building during the few previous weeks. This patient made a good recovery.

Sex.—The Chinese cases comprised 900 males and 515 females; this is equal to a percentage of 36.4 female cases. The proportion of females in the Chinese population at the Census taken this year was only 27.1 per cent., so that it is evident that the Chinese females have suffered, in proportion, very much more severely than Chinese males; this is probably because they remain in their houses much more than the men, almost all of whom are

employed in the open air during the greater part of each day. Among the European cases there were fourteen men, one boy, and eleven women; this gives a proportion of 42.3 per cent. of female cases, while if we take the whole of the non-Chinese cases, there were fifty males and twenty-three females, giving a proportion of 31.5 per cent. of female cases. The proportion of females among the non-Chinese community at the Census taken this year was 29.2 per cent., but this low rate was due in part to the large number of troops stationed here at the time, many of whom had left before the epidemic commenced, and the usual proportion would be about 30 per cent., so that there was no great excess of cases among the non-Chinese women.

Age.—The total number of cases among Chinese children, under fifteen years of age, was 373, or 26.4 per cent. of the total Chinese cases. The percentage in 1900 was 25.9, and in 1898 it was 24.1 per cent. The proportion of children under this age, among the Chinese population, was found at the Census taken this year to be only 17.2 per cent., so that it is very evident that children are very liable to contract this disease.

Eight of the above-named children appear to have recovered, giving a mortality of 97.8 per cent., which is practically the same as the mortality among the adult Chinese.

Dead Bodies in the Street.—No less than 308 of the Chinese cases were dead bodies found lying in the street or floating in the harbour. This represents 21.7 per cent. of the total cases; it shows, however, a considerable reduction when compared with previous years, as in 1900 the percentage of unclaimed bodies found was 37.1 per cent., in 1899 it was 41 per cent., and in 1898 it was 36 per cent. On the other hand more sick people, including even quite young children, have been found wandering about the streets, than in former years, having apparently been turned out of their houses by the other occupants.

The number of such cases occurring yearly without known addresses, coupled with the number of sick persons who leave the Colony in the early stages of the disease, afford a ready explanation of its annual recurrence, for many infected houses must of necessity remain undisinfected, and the only possible remedy that I can see for this is a thorough house-to-house cleansing and disinfection after the epidemic is at an end, so that we may prepare for the epidemic of next year by destroying beforehand as many as possible of the germs which most certainly exist at present in the houses whence these untraced cases came. This procedure cannot however be adopted until further powers are obtained by the Board, and Bye-laws have accordingly been made, which will furnish the necessary powers, and have been forwarded to the Government for the approval of the Legislative Council.

Temperature.—It will be seen that, as in former years, the disease declined as soon as the mean weekly temperature exceeded 80 deg. F. Thus on the 21st week (ending May 25th), the mean weekly temperature rose to 80.1 deg. F., with the result that the total number of cases fell from 215 on the week ending June 1st to 161 on the week ending June 8th, the effect of the rise of temperature not being apparent, of course, until after the lapse of the period of incubation (which varies usually from four to ten days) plus, in most of our cases, the period of duration of the disease, since the cases are seldom discovered or reported until they are either dead or moribund. A fall in the mean weekly temperature to 78.5 deg. F. during the 22nd and 23rd week will be seen from the chart to have resulted in a very slight recrudescence of the disease in the 25th week, but after this the temperature ran rapidly to 83.6 deg., and the number of cases of the disease fell with even greater rapidity.

Rats.—The outbreak this year has been specially marked, so far at least as the European cases were concerned, by the finding of dead rats in the dwellings in which such cases occurred. These rats were found generally during the few weeks preceding the occurrence of the case, but, as I have already stated, many dead rats were also found in houses and offices in which the disease did not occur. Of three rats moreover which were caught alive in infected houses, and were kept in cages at the disinfecting station, only one died, and this

was apparently from an injury incurred at the time it was caught. In the chart showing bubonic fever and general rat mortality, I have given the curves for the last quarter of 1900 as well as for the half-year ending June 29th, 1901, as they show that a very rapid rise in the general rat mortality antedated the epidemic outbreak of bubonic fever by several weeks, for the disease can hardly be said to have become epidemic until the 17th week (ending April 27th), while by that time the rat mortality had almost reached its maximum, having risen from an average of between four and five hundred per week, to as many as 2,770. It is interesting to note also that the maximum rat mortality was reached on the 20th and 21st weeks, when it stood at just over 3,100, while the number of cases of bubonic fever reached its maximum in the following week (the 22nd). I have noted on the chart that the price paid per head for rats was increased from 2 cents to 3 cents on January 24th, and it might perhaps be thought that the rapid increase in the number of rats brought in could be accounted for in this way. This suggestion is, however, discounted by the fact of the equally rapid fall in the rat mortality after the 21st week, corresponding as it does to the fall in the number of cases of bubonic fever reported.

There were about thirty men who made a business of collecting these rats, and I find that no less than seven of them died of bubonic fever during the period under report, while five others left the Colony because they were sick, and two of these latter are said to have died of this disease on the mainland.

The total number of rats paid for during the half-year, in the city of Victoria alone, was just 48,000; the number obtained during the corresponding half of last year was 26,880, while during the second half of last year we only obtained 19,700. A small percentage of these rats was examined systematically at the Government Mortuary, and some of them were found to have died of bubonic fever.

There has been no evidence of any other animals (than rats and mice) dying of this disease during the year.

House-to-House Visits.—In addition to the visits of the District Inspectors, a gang consisting of seven specially selected Sappers and an European Police Constable was appointed early in March to make systematic house-to-house visits in No. 9 Health District; these men worked in pairs, and each pair was supplied with a native interpreter. During the two months from 23rd March to 25th May fourteen cases of bubonic fever, one case of small-pox, and two dead bodies were discovered by, or reported to them, and during the same period twenty-five dead bodies were found by the Police, mostly at night, in the streets and lanes of the District in which the search-parties were at work. On the 27th of May these men were transferred to Wanchai where they discovered fifteen cases between that date and the end of June, five of these cases being discovered by them on the first day; before, that is to say, the natives were aware that they were at work in the District.

The system of house-to-house visiting appears to me to be of the greatest value before the disease becomes epidemic, and while the few sporadic cases are occurring within a circumscribed area, as the natives resort to every possible device to conceal their sick. I may mention the following as some of the difficulties with which we have to contend in this respect:—

(1.) A Chinaman of the poorer class, when he is sick or retires to bed, makes no change of costume, hence as soon as it is known that the search party is in the house, the sick man will get up and walk about and make every effort to appear in his ordinary health.

(2.) The other people living in the house will conceal their sick, and an instance occurred this year of a sick woman and a dead body being concealed under the same bed, within a cubicle.

(3.) When it is known that special house-to-house visits are to be paid, the sick are conveyed from the unvisited to the recently visited houses.

(4.) The sick are also concealed on the flat roofs of the houses.

(5.) If there is no other means of concealing them, they are turned out into the streets to wander at large.

Removal of the Sick and Dead.—Considerable improvements have been effected in the means of conveyance of the sick, an improved type of ambulance purchased and a permanent staff of coolies arranged for to convey these ambulances to the Hospitals. A steam-launch for the conveyance of the sick from the Wanchai districts to the Hospital at West Point was also employed during the later period of the epidemic. Dead bodies are conveyed in what are termed "dead-boxes," and I would suggest that some small covered-in-hand carts, capable of carrying two or three dead-boxes should be obtained, as complaints have been made that the dead-boxes are not always securely closed while being conveyed through the public streets and that the carrying coolies occasionally put the box down in some very public place, while resting. When the disease became rife in Wanchai the dead bodies were placed on board a cargo-boat hired for the purpose and towed round by a launch to the Mortuary at West Point.

Burial of the Dead.—This was carried out under the superintendence of one of the Board's European Officers, all bodies being buried at the Kennedy Town Plague Cemetery, unless a special permit had been granted for burial elsewhere.

Disinfection of Infected Premises.—This work has been under the personal control of Inspector Reidie, who spent the greater part of his leave in Europe last year in studying the different methods of disinfection in vogue in Glasgow (especially during the outbreak of bubonic fever in that city), in Edinburgh, and in Paris, and in examining the various forms of apparatus for this purpose which were exhibited at the Paris Exhibition. Inspector Reidie was assisted by three European officers, eight coloured foremen, three Chinese foremen, a staff of thirty trained coolies, and a varying number of other coolies for carrying purposes. The processes of disinfection consisted in the removal, of all bedding, clothing, curtains, carpets and mats to the Steam Disinfecting Station, these articles being first tied up into bundles with large sheets of unbleached calico, and then put into baskets which are carried by coolies. Government clothing being supplied to temporarily replace the personal clothing of the occupants of the infected houses. The walls and floors of the premises are then sprayed with a one-in-a-thousand solution of perchloride of mercury, and the building then thoroughly fumigated with chlorine obtained by the addition of dilute sulphuric acid to chloride of lime, the pots being placed as high up as possible, on a trestle or shelf, on account of the weight of this gas. Finally the floors are scrubbed with a solution of one of the coal tar preparations, the drains flushed, and the walls lime-washed, chloride of lime being added to the lime-wash in the proportion of 1 lb. to the gallon.

The people displaced from their homes during the above processes, which occupy about six hours, are at liberty to make use of the Board's matshed shelters, but the men usually prefer to proceed with their ordinary work, while the women remain in the street to watch their household goods, or seek shelter with a neighbour.

Closure of Premises.—In consequence of the occurrence of a number of cases (European and native) in a block of buildings known as Beaconsfield Arcade and consisting of fourteen three-story buildings, used as shops, offices and dwellings, I recommended the Board, on 24th May, to close the entire block as unfit for human habitation. The closing order was made on the following day and the entire premises were then thoroughly disinfected by the Officers of the Board. The walls were sprayed with a one-in-a-thousand solution of corrosive sublimate, all the rooms and passages were fumigated with free chlorine; floor-boards were taken up and the rat-holes traced and treated with crude carbolic acid, all rat-holes being stopped with cement; soft wooden partitions and all rotten woodwork were removed and destroyed, and the floor-boards then saturated with the crude carbolic acid, while the drains and traps were treated with the same disinfectant; all illegal obstructions to light and ventilation were removed from the backyards and the whole block then thoroughly lime-washed. In addition, the owner, at my suggestion, removed a number of drain-inlets, which were within the building, to the outside, and also removed most

of the ceilings, leaving exposed the floor-joists which were then painted—the object of these alterations being to provide as few facilities as possible for the entry of rats into the building. The premises were finally released from the closing order on the 27th day of June.

On the same date (May 25th) the Board declared the premises known as Nos. 15, 17, and 19, Peel Street and also No. 63, Wellington Street, unfit for human habitation, in consequence of the occurrence of several cases of bubonic fever in each of them, and the same processes of disinfection and cleansing were adopted, the premises being released on the 11th of July.

On the 27th day of June another building known as "Wild Dell" which is divided up into a number of sets of apartments, occupied by Europeans, was closed by order of the Board, for similar reasons, and was then thoroughly cleansed and disinfected; at the time of writing these premises have not been released from that order.

General Sanitary Precautions.—Chloride of lime was supplied to all the public latrines for use in the buckets, and the District Inspectors were instructed to see that it was freely used. The sewers on the lower levels were also flushed with sea-water, by means of the Fire Brigade engines.

Staff.—The arduous duties connected with the disinfection of all infected premises, and the control of the Disinfecting Station, were carried out by Inspector Reidie in the most efficient manner, and I have very good reason to know that he worked from early morning till late at night during the height of the epidemic to secure the efficiency of this service. It will be remembered that Inspector Reidie contracted bubonic fever in 1899 while in the execution of similar duties, and he has therefore good reason to claim a special knowledge of the disease. I consider that this officer deserves the special thanks of the Board for the manner in which he has performed these duties. The other officers who deserve special mention in connection with this year's outbreak are Inspectors Rogers and C. W. Brett who are employed in Kowloon; Inspectors Hoggarth and Fincher in Wanchai; Inspector Knight who superintended the removal of all infected corpses from the Government Mortuary and their interment at the Kennedy Town Cemetery; and Police Inspector Robertson who had considerable experience of the disease at Shaukiwan and Quarry Bay.

PRESERVATION TO MR. D. WOOD.

In the office of the Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works, on the 24th inst. an interesting presentation by the staff of the Public Works Department was made to Mr. David Wood, Superintendent of Accounts, Correspondence, and Stores, on the occasion of his approaching marriage. The presentation consisted of a handsome, exquisitely carved cabinet, made of Canton blackwood and standing nearly seven feet high, an equally beautiful lamp stand, quite six feet high, of the same material, a four-fold Canton blackwood photo-stand, and two cabinet photo-frames, also of Canton blackwood. Like the cabinet, the lamp-stand and photo-frames showed to perfection the wonderful skill in the art of wood carving attained by the Oriental workman. On the cabinet, near the top, was fixed a silver plate bearing the following inscription:—"David Wood. On the occasion of his marriage. From his brother officers. September, 1901."

In making the presentation, Mr. CHATHAM, addressing the members of the staff present, said—Gentlemen, on the last occasion we met together we came to the conclusion that it would be a pleasing act on our part to present Mr. Wood with some little present on the occasion of his forthcoming wedding, and we now meet together again for the purpose of giving him this present. The committee then appointed, I am sure, have succeeded admirably in their duty, and everyone of us must be pleased with the result. A great deal nowadays is said and written against Hongkong, but whatever may be said and written in that respect, we can always depend upon it that it is a good place to get married in. (Laughter.) My only regret, as far as I personally am concerned, is

that I was not married in Hongkong. (Renewed laughter.) We have known Mr. Wood, many of us, for a good number of years, and we have always found him an exceedingly agreeable gentleman to work with, ready to do everything in his power to make things go. I have much pleasure in asking him, on behalf of all of us, to accept these presents, and I am sure we all hope he will spend many happy years with his wife, when he gets her. These presents doubtless will form a pleasing link in his connection with the Department here. (Applause.)

Mr. Wood replied briefly, and said—Mr. Chatham and gentlemen, no words of mine can convey an adequate idea of my feeling in accepting these very handsome presents, which will always convey to me the expression of your goodwill and recall many happy memories. I know I have fallen very far short of deserving this kindness at your hands, but at the same time, as Mr. Chatham has said, it is my good luck to be married in the East. (Laughter.) I don't think I need say anything further beyond asking you to accept these few lame words as an expression of my most heartfelt thanks for your kindness. (Applause.)

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 16th September.

MOUERNING FOR MCKINLEY.

The death of the President has aroused the sincerest grief and sympathy throughout the entire islands. Governor Taft and General Chaffee have received telegrams of condolence from loyal natives in all parts of the Archipelago. Manila is draped in sombre crape. The Government buildings were the first to display mourning and now the Escolta and other business sections of the city are putting away their varied colours beneath the prevailing black. All Government officials and employees are wearing bands of black on their sleeves and will continue to do so for thirty days. The Governor's proclamation announcing the death of the Chief Executive was especially clear in explaining that the nation's loss would in no way interfere with the life of the Government or the administration, either here or in America. However, already there are numerous reports circulating among the natives to the effect that great changes may be reasonably anticipated. Many Filipinos seem to think that as Bryan had the second number of votes at the last election, he will succeed to the presidency. A few months ago this calamity would have been an excellent means for stirring up the insurrection, but that is so crushed now that little or no disturbance is looked for. President Roosevelt's cabled assurance that he will follow closely up the policy mapped out by McKinley has been received with great satisfaction and pleasure, as any change at this critical period might work untold harm. The people have learned to feel complete confidence in the McKinley administration and they naturally dread any alterations.

AGUINALDO'S SYMPATHY.

Aguinaldo has sent letters of sympathy to Governor Taft and General Chaffee. The following is a translation of the communication to the Governor:—"The situation in which I find myself will not permit me, as I desire, to personally express to you the profound grief with which my heart is filled, because of the sad loss the nation has just experienced. If the statements of a Filipino who is in my condition may be considered as an expression of feeling, accept this as the manifestation of the most sincere sorrow my soul feels, which associates itself with the grief of the nation and with the personal bereavement which afflicts your heart at this time, by reason of so lamentable a misfortune.—Respectfully yours, Emilio Aguinaldo."

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday, the 19th inst., in which both the military and civilians will participate. The troops will form on the Luneta at noon, when the last salute will be fired from the guns on the city walls. Major-General Lloyd Wheaton will be in command of the ceremonies, and Chaplain Freeland will offer the prayer.

THE NEW TARIFF.

The Philippine tariff, which was the subject

of several weeks' discussion by the merchants of Manila in the early part of this year, has at last returned from Washington and with it came the new collector of customs, Mr. Shuster. The authorities at Washington did not change the general scheme of duties to any great extent, and as the matter was thoroughly worked over by Manila business men several months ago, it was not thought that there would be much more to do than to set the date on which it would go into operation. However, when the Commission placed the tariff before the public, three days were occupied in lengthy discussions made up chiefly of objections. A large number of the merchants do not want the new duties to go into effect for six months, as they claim that they have large stocks on hand, on which they have paid duties at the old rates and hence any change at this time will cause a loss to them. The Commission met this by pointing out that the business men knew the old tariff was only a limited rating and that the new plan, in the arrangement of which they themselves were active, was to be adopted as soon as practicable. Besides, there were the buyers to be considered as well as the importers. Naturally each merchant is particularly interested in his own line of goods and he is well posted on the ways of importing and selling, and accordingly many of the arguments were extremely close and technical. Collector Shuster was present at the public meetings and was ready to explain every point or reason for special taxation. On Saturday Dr. Kruger, the German Consul, occupied the floor and ran through a long line of objections, but it is doubtful if they brought about many material changes. He thought the tariff very high on many of the German goods, and engaged in several debates with Mr. Shuster.

The new tariff on the packing and exterior coverings is most unpopular, as in the majority of cases the packing is of absolutely no commercial value and yet it has to pay duty. One importer showed that under this ruling the importation of cigarettes would be prohibited, as the duty on the tins and cases would raise the tax from \$125 to \$500.

The proposed amendments have been cabled to Washington, and an answer should be received to-day or to-morrow. The new Tariff will become operative on 1st November of this year.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

Vladivostock, 31st August.

The expected visit to Vladivostock of the Russian Minister of Finance in connection with the pending question as to whether or not "porto-franco" should be re-established here, has fallen through, but in his place Mr. Romanoff, the Chief Deputy to the Minister, will leave St. Petersburg in a few days and is expected at Vladivostock via the Siberian route and Port Arthur, early in October.

A strong appeal is intended to be made to Mr. Romanoff by the local merchants for the re-establishment of a free port here for at least another five years. For this purpose, a special statistical bureau has been organised under charge of the Military Governor, who has invited all those interested in the subject to furnish the bureau with statistics and other data, showing the growth of trade for the last five or ten years in the provinces affected by the customs tariff, and to give their opinions and reasons as to the removal of the tariff in such provinces.

The data is being daily received at the Governor's office and is arranged in systematic order, and, together with a "representation note" decided upon by the committee of this special bureau at a meeting held a few days ago, will be presented to Mr. Romanoff on his arrival here, and he, in turn, will also be requested to present the matter for final decision upon his return to St. Petersburg. Some hopes are cherished that if the tariff is not entirely removed, certain articles of first importance will be freed from duty.

The Russian first-class cruiser *Variag*, now at Kronstadt, is preparing to leave for the Far East, and will be a powerful acquisition to the Pacific Squadron. Captain V. F. Ber will be in command of the ship.

As a result of successful experiments with wireless telegraphy made recently at Odessa between the shore and the Russian battleship

Rostislav, in presence of the inventor, Mr. Popoff, seven warships of the Black Sea Fleet are now being equipped with apparatus for communication between the fleet and the shore at long distances at sea.—*Nagasaki Press*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

PUBLIC WORKS, PLAGUE, MAGISTERIAL ENQUIRY INTO JERRY BUILDINGS, &c.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 24th September.

SIR,—For the information of the community will you be so good as to publish in an early issue of your paper the enclosed correspondence, which has taken place between the Government and myself, and oblige.—Yours, etc.,

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

(Enclosures.)

Hongkong, 3rd September, 1901.

DEAR SIR HENRY BLAKE,

With reference to the following Resolution, of which I have given notice, viz:—

"That in the opinion of this Council a thoroughly experienced officer of first-class ability in every respect and of considerable professional standing should be secured to fill the office of Director of Public Works, and that this Council would willingly entertain any proposals which might be made by the Government for the provision of a better salary than that hitherto paid."

I understood from your Excellency's remark that you were undecided as to whether the motion was in order, but in the hope that you will allow it, I venture to now make the following remarks, as the next meeting of Council may not take place for some time.

The Public Works Department is the greatest spending Department of the Government. The duties devolving on the Director of that Department are very responsible and most important.

Those difficult and arduous duties must steadily increase year by year with the material progress and the ever expanding commerce of the Colony. If the plague can be kept away from Hongkong there is practically no limit to the further expansion of the trade of the port which may safely be said to be yet in its infancy.

The development of the New Territory in the Kowloon Peninsula (on which \$736,571.34 of public money has been expended from 1898 to 30th June last) must add largely to the duties of the Director of Public Works.

The work of the office is now so vast in the aggregate that it appears to have already outgrown the capacity of any one man, however able, industrious, or energetic he may be.

In short, the time appears to have arrived for the separation of purely sanitary and municipal work from the public works of the Colony. It is growing more evident every day that the granting of municipal powers to the tax-payers cannot be much longer delayed.

In the interests of the trade and the shipping of the port I am convinced of the imperative necessity of now securing and appointing a thoroughly experienced officer, first-class in every respect and of considerable professional standing, to take charge of the Public Works Department and of the ever increasing duties devolving on that Department in respect of roads, streets, buildings, sewerage, water-works, reclamations, and the many important public works now in progress and in contemplation.

A better salary than that hitherto paid is indispensable, and the Council should willingly vote the same.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.

His Excellency

Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

Government House,
Hongkong, 5th September, 1901.

DEAR MR. WHITEHEAD,

I quite recognise the important work to be performed by the Director of Public Works as an administrative official, and I have no doubt that this is fully realised by the Secretary

of State in whose hand the appointment rests. I cannot, however, agree with you that the work of this small Colony cannot be properly supervised by one Director of Public Works, a task that is being successfully performed in Colonies in which much larger works are being carried out than here.

The question of a Municipality will not, I take it, be affected by the appointment of any Director of Public Works, who may be selected by the Secretary of State. Should that question come forward, it will doubtless be considered by His Majesty's Government on its merits, on which I do not desire at present to offer any opinion.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE.

The Honourable
T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hongkong, 7th September, 1901.

DEAR SIR HENRY BLAKE,

Yesterday afternoon I was favoured with your letter of 5th instant, in reply to my communication of 23rd idem, and take due note of your Excellency's remarks. It is a fact (1) that plague has been epidemic in Hongkong for six consecutive years, (2) that plague has entailed quarantine on the shipping of the port and disastrous results on the commerce of the Colony, (3) that there is considerable overcrowding in several of the districts in the City, (4) that there is insanitary, defective sewerage and drainage, and (5) that there are evidently in existence in Hongkong jerry-buildings.

There was the collapse or tumbling down of Nos. 32 and 34, Cochrane Street on the night of 14th ult., which resulted in the death of forty-three persons and injury to many others. In regard to the latter collapse and the consequent deplorable loss of life, an enquiry under Ordinance No. 7 of 1889 was held at the Magistracy, but the said enquiry, as reported in the local press, cannot be regarded as in any sense complete or satisfactory, while the Magistrate's decision appears to me to be equally incomplete and unsatisfactory. The enquiry has failed to show who is responsible for the jerry-building or the faulty construction of the said two houses, the collapse of which entailed the loss of forty-three lives? It seems to me that your Excellency would do well to cause the enquiry to be reopened with the object of getting at the real facts and the primary cause of the collapse of the two houses, also of ascertaining the person or persons responsible for the grievous loss of forty-three lives.

Will your Excellency kindly cause me to be furnished with a copy of the Magistrate's decision in question instead of my having to wait for it until the next meeting of Council?

The local conditions speaking generally are undoubtedly exceptional, and in many respects far from satisfactory. In addition to the preceding facts, it appears to me that there are other good and sound reasons which would fully justify the Colonial Government urging by telegram on the Secretary for the Colonies the imperative necessity of now securing and appointing a thoroughly experienced officer, first-class in every respect and of considerable professional standing, to take charge of the Public Works Department and of the ever increasing duties devolving on that Department in respect of roads, streets, buildings, sewerage, water-works, reclamations, and the many important public works now in progress and in contemplation, connected with the sanitation of the Colony. In consequence of the general increase in wages and the substantial increase in the cost of living which have recently taken place in Hongkong, I respectfully submit that a thoroughly efficient and capable officer cannot now be obtained at the salary of the office hitherto paid.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.

His Excellency,

Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

Government House,

Hongkong, 9th September, 1901.

DEAR MR. WHITEHEAD,

H.E. the Governor desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 7th inst., in reply to his letter of the 5th inst. His Excellency wishes me to say that it would be inconvenient to deal with the matters men-

tioned in your letter by private correspondence, and to suggest that your requests should be made through the Colonial Secretary, when they will be dealt with in the usual course.

I am to inform you, however, that the matter of the collapse of the houses is being very carefully looked into.

I am.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) W. L. WARREN.

The Honourable
T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hongkong, 12th September, 1901.

DEAR CAPTAIN WARREN,

Your letter of 9th inst. duly reached me, in which you intimated that His Excellency the Governor desired you to acknowledge receipt of my communication of 7th idem. I beg to express my thanks for His Excellency's reply, and may be permitted to remark that the correspondence on these public questions, which deeply concern the interests of the community, can scarcely be regarded as private. I propose in due course to forward a copy of the letters to the local press for publication, for the information of the members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce whom I try to represent.

I remain.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Captain W. L. WARREN, R.A.
Private Secretary,
Government House.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

3rd September, 1901.

SIR.—I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency having considered very carefully the terms of the resolution concerning the office of Director of Public Works, of which you gave notice at the last meeting of Legislative Council, has come to the conclusion that it is not in order and cannot be submitted to the Legislative Council.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. CLEMENTI,

Acting Clerk of Councils.

The Honourable
T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hongkong, 7th September, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter No. 28. of 3rd inst., in intimating that you are directed by the Governor to inform me that His Excellency, having considered very carefully the terms of the Resolution concerning the office of Director of Public Works, of which I gave notice at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, has come to the conclusion that it is not in order and cannot be submitted to the Legislative Council. I beg to ask whether His Excellency objects to the principle of the resolution or merely to the wording thereof. If the latter will you be so good as to let me know what modification of its terms would render it in order in the opinion of the President of the Council?

I observe that you have marked your communication *confidential* which I presume has been done in error, as the same cannot be regarded as in any sense confidential. In the public interests I have given notice of a Resolution, but it appears I am to be debarred from bringing the resolution forward in Council. The Members of the Chamber of Commerce whom I try to represent are surely entitled to know the ruling of the President of the Council on the point, and I shall be glad to learn that the word "confidential" has crept into your letter by mistake.

Yours truly,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.

C. CLEMENTI Esq.,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

11th September, 1901.

SIR.—In reply to your letter of the 7th inst., I am directed by the Governor to inform you that, while His Excellency is at one with you as to the advisability of appointing an experienced officer of considerable professional standing, such appointments are in the hands of the Secretary of State and not of the Legislative

Council, and it is not competent for an unofficial member to propose a resolution to the Legislative Council involving expenditure of revenue.

2. In reply to the second paragraph of your letter, I regret that my letter of the 3rd instant was marked confidential by a clerical error.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) C. CLEMENTI,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

The Honourable
T. H. WHITEHEAD.

BOXING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 20th September.

SIR.—The enclosed clipping might be of interest seeing that so much money is talked of between local sports and our recent pugilistic visitors, Messrs. McAuliffe and Slavin, and so much "big talk" has emanated from the first named gentleman.—Yours, etc.,

"STOUSH."

(Enclosure)

Hard-up pugs should go to India, where Jack McAuliffe and Jack Slavin are taking that benighted country down in a most brazen fashion. A Singapore correspondent sends a card announcing McAuliffe as "Champion Light-weight of America and Australia," and Jack Slavin "Middle-weight Champion of Australia." McAuliffe was never within speaking distance of the Austral light-weight supremacy, and never even saw the America of which he is represented champion. The Yankee Jack McAuliffe was quite another puissant. Jack Slavin has not been visible in Australia for at least 10 years, and was shooed off the middle-weight premiership over and over again. When someone asked pertinent questions as to whether McAuliffe was himself or the other McAuliffe, a letter appeared in the *Singapore Free Press* offering to forfeit 1,000 dollars to any local charity named by the municipal president if his (Mc.'s) *bona fides* could be impugned. Meanwhile, the two beauties were fighting "matches and return matches" all over the country and living in the best pubs. at top tariff. But there is no word of the 1,000 dollars being deposited in the municipal president's hands. — *Sydney Bulletin*, 31st August.

THE INTERPORT MATCHES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 25th September.

SIR.—May I suggest to the Committee of the Hongkong Cricket Club to charge an admission fee on all non-members availing themselves of the use of the matshed which it is proposed to erect in connection with the Interport Matches? Such is done by the Football Club, the V. R. C. &c., and the fees would defray part of the cost of the matshed. — Yours, etc.,

A MEMBER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 26th September.

SIR.—May I be permitted to publish an emphatic objection to the letter of "Member" who kindly suggested that the Cricket Club should charge a fee for non-members using the matshed at the coming Interport Matches. Because the Football Club has the effrontery to charge 50 cents for a seat at an ordinary match, it is no reason why the Cricket Club should descend to such a level on the occasion of such interesting events as the Interport matches. Of the several parts in the East where sports are encouraged for the love and enjoyment of the thing, Hongkong is, I think, the only place where spectators are left unprovided with seats unless they are prepared to pay for them, and where amateur Clubs raise a revenue by running a "gate." As a member and on behalf of the public generally, I hope such a proposition will not be considered by the H.K.C.C.—Yours, etc.,

ANOTHER MEMBER.

It is reported that the French Government has purchased one of the hotels at Macao, which will be used as a naval hospital. The same building, we believe, was also offered to the British and American Governments.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LTD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the eighteenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the offices of the Company, on Saturday, the 28th September, at noon:—

With regard to the debit balance of last year, to meet which a sum equivalent was to be transferred from the reserve fund to credit of profit and loss account, the General Managers, after taking counsel's opinion, found that the Articles of Association did not permit a transfer from reserve fund to meet losses, except only such sum as had been expended in upkeep, maintenance and repairs of steamers during the year.

The sum, therefore, of \$57,288.31, which was the amount expended on this account during that year, has been transferred from reserve fund to the credit of profit and loss account.

After paying all running expenses, premium of insurance, remuneration to the consulting committee and auditors' fees, there remains a net profit of \$101,087.78: arrived at as follows:—

Profit on working for the year	\$109,298.26
Add amount transferred from the reserve fund, being cost of repairs, upkeep and maintenance of steamers during the year ended June 30th, 1900	57,288.31
	<hr/>
Deduct debit balance brought forward from 30th June, 1900	65,408.79
	<hr/>
Net profit...	\$101,087.78

The reserve fund therefore is now \$173,899.07, after the transfer of the above sum of \$57,288.31.

The net profit, as above, it is, with the approval of shareholders, proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To write off, \$41,087.78 from the book values of the Company's property on 3rd June last, and to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. on the capital of the Company, which will absorb a further \$60,000.00.

The General Managers and Consulting Committee venture to hope that the result will be considered satisfactory, in view of the low and unremunerative rates which have continued to rule on cargo to and from the coast and Formosa, coupled with the high price of fuel.

During the year, several of the Company's steamers have been chartered at times to the Government, to which fact is due a very large part of the profit now shown.

A keen competition is still carried on by the steamers of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, who have, in addition to their steamers running to Formosa—placed a regular boat on the Foochow line, thereby cutting into the Company's trade with that port. The General Managers have from time to time approached the management of this line, with the view of advancing rates on the coast and at Tamsui, but up to the present no satisfactory arrangement has been come to.

The steamers of the Company have been maintained in a state of thorough efficiency, and are in first-class order.

The amounts appearing as freights due and accounts receivable on 30th June, have all been collected, with the exception of a sum of \$13,727.16, still due from the late Amoy Agents, which is gradually being reduced, and against which the Company has ample security.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Since the last general meeting, the Hon. J. J. Keswick, and Mr. J. A. Mackay have resigned their seats, and the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mr. C. H. Thompson have been invited to fill the respective vacancies on the board. The committee now consists of Messrs. R. Shewan, C. S. Sharp, C. H. Thompson, and the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, who all retire in terms of the Articles of Association, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Mr. J. H. Cox having resigned his position as auditor, Mr. W. H. Potts has been asked to fill the vacancy. The present accounts have been audited by W. H. Gaskell and W. H.

Potts who retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO., General Managers.

The following are the balance-sheet and profit and loss account:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

For the year ended 30th June, 1901.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital account	\$ 20,000 shares at \$50
Reserve fund	1,000,000.00
Underwriting account of the Company	173,899.07
Sundry accounts payable	62,915.88
Unpaid dividends	47,086.41
Unpaid bonus	36.00
Profit and loss account	138.00
	101,087.78
	<hr/>
	\$1,385,163.14

ASSETS.	
Value of the Co.'s steamers	\$
Hainan, Formosa, Hainan, Taiwan, Hainan, and Haiching	1,054,203.16
Value of buoys and moorings at Swatow, Amoy, Tamsui and Hongkong, steam-launch and wharf at Hongkong	58,970.44
	<hr/>
Loans on mortgage	1,113,173.60
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	60,500.00
Value of coal in stock	65,337.63
Freights due 30th June, 1901	990.00
Sundry accounts receivable from agencies, &c.	78,649.18
Cash in hand	66,575.82
	<hr/>
	\$1,385,163.14

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the year ended 30th June, 1901.

To balance of profit and loss account (30th June, 1900)	
	\$ 65,408.79
To remuneration to General Managers for office expenses, for 12 months	10,000.00
To remuneration to Consulting Committee for 12 months	2,000.00
To auditors' fees	600.00
To exchange account	918.43
To balance	101,087.78
	<hr/>
	\$180,015.00

By reserve fund account, amount transferred, being cost of repairs, up-keep and maintenance of steamers during the year ended 30th June, 1900	\$ 57,288.31
By coal account	2,301.35
By interest on mortgages account	3,790.33
By general interest account	1,042.85
By bonuses received	548.37
By profit on running the Company's steamers during the year	115,043.79
	<hr/>
	\$180,015.00

SUPREME COURT.

Thursday, 26th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

ROSSELET & CO. v. GODOWN CO.

In this case the plaintiffs, J. Rosselet & Company, merchants in this city, sued the defendants, the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company, Ltd., Praya Central; for the sum of \$276 damages for the non-delivery by the plaintiffs, in January, 1900, of 12 cases of Bass & Company, Ltd.'s pale ale, the property of the plaintiffs, at \$23 per case. Mr. F. B. Deacon, solicitor (Messrs. Deacon & Hastings), appeared for the defendant firm, and Mr. J. Hays, solicitor (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master) for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Hays read the pleadings of the plaintiff and defendant firms, and briefly stated the case. The *Sadu Maru* arrived here with 30 cases of beer and stout from London consigned to the plaintiffs. They were placed in the godowns, and in due course the consignee went to the shipowners, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, with his bill of lading, and asked them to endorse it. They did so, and the consignee then went to the Godown Company and handed in the bill of lading. Shortly afterwards an application was made by the plaintiffs for the delivery of the cases, and eighteen were taken away—twelve first and six afterwards—leaving twelve cases in the godown. On 26th August the

plaintiffs were handed by the defendants a short delivery note showing that there was a balance then in the hands of the Godown Company. In handing the plaintiffs that short delivery note, Mr. Hays submitted that the Godown Company showed themselves to have knowledge of a contract between themselves and the plaintiffs, and the consideration for that contract was the godown rent. After this contract was entered into, nothing more was done for some considerable time—not till 20th January, 1900, when Mr. Rosselet sent his shroff to the Godown Company with the short delivery note, to ask for the delivery of the remaining twelve cases of ale. The shroff was informed that the ale had been sold some time previously by auction. Mr. Hays submitted that the ale was wrongfully sold, that the Godown Company had committed a breach of trust of a bailee, because they were the bailees of these cases for a consideration they recognised. Mr. Rosselet was the owner of the cases of beer, and was the person entitled to them. The Godown Company, however, deliberately sold the twelve cases without giving him any notice whatever of their intention to sell them or any reason for so selling them. Mr. Rosselet unfortunately lost the short delivery note and it was not again found till the spring of this year, when the plaintiffs again wrote to the Godown Company and asked for delivery of the twelve cases of ale. The defendants, in reply, referred the plaintiffs to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, who on application being made to them, referred the plaintiffs back to the Godown Company. Subsequently Mr. Rosselet put the matter in the hands of his solicitors.

Mr. J. Rosselet, sole partner in the firm of Rosselet & Company, was called and gave evidence in support of his claim. He was afterwards cross-examined by Mr. Deacon.

After hearing arguments his Lordship decided to reserve judgment.

QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL FUND.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

Amount already subscribed	\$ 30,170.60
Chau Tung Shang	2,000
Chin Wah Hong Opium Farm	600
Yan Wo Co.	500
Shing Wo Co.	500
Yuen Fat Hong	500
Hop Hing Hong	500
Yee On Firm	500
Kwong Mow Tai	300
Fung Wa Chun	300
Ho Fook	300
Yuen Lai Chuen	300
Wing Kee & Co.	300
Lau Wai Chuen	200
Hon. Wei Yuk	200
Loo Koon Ting	200
Choa Chee Bee	200
Mok Tso Chuen	200
Pun Fai Ting	200
Kin Tai Loong	20
Yuen Hop	20
R. bert Jack & Co.	200
Yu Wui Loong	200
Tang Cheuk Hing	150
Leung Yan Po	150
See Wo	150
Wang Hing	150
Tak Cheung	150
Cheung Wo	150
Lock Hing	150
Man On Insurance Co.	
Po On Insurance Co.	
Chuen On Insurance Co.	
Yee On Insurance Co.	
Tung On Insurance Co.	
Fook On Insurance Co.	
Hang On Insurance Co.	
Yan On Insurance Co.	
Tseung Sz Kai	100
Wei On	100
Leung Pui Chi	100
Hu Shun Chuen	100
Ho Kom Tong	100
Wong Kum Fuk	100
Wing Cheong Lee	100
Chu Wing On	100
Ng King Fook Tong	100
Yeung Hing	100

Tai Sing	\$100
Kwan Tai	100
Nam Hing Loong	100
Chun Tai	100
Nam Wo & Co.	100
Kwong Loong Tai	100
A Tack & Co.	100
Kam Fung Yu	100
Kat Cheung Hing	100
Luen Choong	100
Tsun Cheong Wing	100
Yee Shun Tai	100
Tak Shing Hong	100
Hau Fung Hong	100
Kwan Yik Tai	100
Man Sang	100
Chan Tin Shan	100
Li Lai Wo	100
Fung Shau Shan	100
Yuan Wan Chiu	100
Chiu Hang On	100
Yung Hin Pong	100
Lau Chin Ting	100
Kwong Wing Shun	100
Kung Yuen	100
Kwong Man Cheung	100
Joe Tak Sing	100
Hang Kee	100
Kwong Tak Fat	100
Hin Fat	100
Tak Cheong	100
Ming Yu-Tai	100
Kwong Cheong Wo	100
Kwong Cheong Loong	100
Kwong Wa Yuen	100
Kwong Yick Wo	100
See Sing Wo	100
Kwong Lun Tai	100
Tung Kee & Co.	100
Tsui Cheong Loong	100
Sing Tai	100
Yu Wo Loong	100
Yan Cheong	100
Po Loong	100
Him Yuen	100
Kwong Yu Ying	100
Kwong Tak Wing	100
Kwan Wo Loong	100
Wing Cheung Sing	100
Sun Kwong Hop	100
Kwong Mee Yuen	100
Sun Tung Cheong	100
Wo Cheong	100
Wing Cheung Kat	100
The Tai Shing Paper Mill	100
Yee Hing	100
Tack Hing	100
Lenn Sing Woon	100
Chan Quan Ee	100
Tong Lai Chnen	100
Lau Pun Chin	100
Chau Hewan	100
Ip Shun Ham	100
Tam Tze Kong	100
Teng Wan Chin	100
Wan Ho	100
Wong Yu Chuen	100
Wong Chuk Yan	100
Chow Hing Kee	100
Chan Wut Chin	100
Kwok Shin Lan	100
Chan Woon Ming	100
Chan Oi Ting	100
Chan Hing Ting	100
Chow Dart Tong	100
Chan Shak Shau	100
Cheung Kam Tin	100
J. H. Stewart-Lockhart	100
Harbour Master's Office Staff	38.50
Colonial Secretary's Office Staff	32
C. McL. Messer	30
Registrar-General's Staff	28
G. T. Veitch	25
Treasury Staff	17
A. W. Brewin	15
F. R. Smith	15
J. Hays	10
W. Nicholson	10
A. R. Lowe	10
C. Clementi	10
G. A. Woodcock	10
R. M. Rumsey	10
O. D. Thomson	10
V. J. Badeley	10
J. W. Norton Kyshe	10
P. A. Barlow	10
W. Wilson	10
J. W. Graham	10

Supreme Court Staff	\$8.50
C. B.	5
E. C. Wilks	5
A. Harvie	5
J. Ramsay	5
A. Ewing	5
W. M. Deas	5
G. Smith	5
C. Fittock	5
S. Wilson	5
J. W. Jack	5
J. Wilkie	5
H. Hoile	3
G. Patton	2
E. Jackson	2
W. Stewart	2
J. R. Craik	2
G. Duncan	2

\$50,070.60

Those who intend subscribing and have not yet done so will please send their subscriptions to either of the Honorary Treasurers, care of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank on or before Wednesday, the 25th instant, on which day the lists will close.

C. P. CHATER } Hon. Treasurers.
T. JACKSON }

A WORD TO CRICKETERS.

The Cricket Ground is open! To the practical, downright cricketer (for with the casual, dilettante pseudo-cricketer we have no commerce) this announcement marks the return to a winter diet of robust exercise and the annual weaning from a summer diet of croquet, golf, or lawn tennis. Whilst it is hopeless to convince a man who has played cricket since he was ten years old that there is any other outdoor game in the world and that other forms of open-air recreation are aught but flippant pastimes, that same man will frankly admit that business worries may find safe vent in the expletives of golf, that household cares may be forgotten in the glee of wiring your opponent at croquet, and that lawn tennis (even without the anathematised screen) steers many a person clear of the summer doldrums. He institutes no comparisons; for the simple reason that he cannot bring cricket and other outdoor pastimes on to the same plane. He knows the names of Vardon, Dogherty, and Roper; but what are they or their fathers' house by the side of a Grace or a Ranjitsinhji? By assiduous practice he might attain to mediocrity in all pastimes, but he defies the devotees of such pastimes to attain even to mediocrity at cricket. His view is that if these champions in other games had been able to attain to average skill at cricket, they could not have wasted their lives in other diversions. This may not be sound reasoning, but it is the attitude of the man who appreciates the genius of cricket and has the cricket virus in his system. It is not an attitude of contempt or of disdain, but of wonderment. How many men having these vital radical and conservative views of cricket are to be found in the Colony to-day? Are there a score of men who don't mind whether they go in first or last, whether they are put on to bowl or not, or where they are placed in the field? Are there twenty men who will assiduously and carefully practice batting, bowling, fielding, and catching, determined to do all that they can to accustom themselves to the pace and size of the ground and the peculiar and varying light which obtains on it? It cannot be that there is not this number of disciplined, self-denying cricketers in Hongkong, men ready to strive their best to get into the eleven which will represent the Colony in November next, who will not cavil if the selection committee's choice does not fall on them, and will not say in advance "It's no use my practising, as I have no chance of being picked." Play up, gentlemen, and show yourselves at your best: tune yourselves up to concert pitch! If some one who batted or bowled well last year has lost his form, the selection committee will not do its duty if, influenced by sentiment or commiseration, it includes in the eleven any extinct volcanoes: not but that, in a crucial game, some regard must be paid to the steadiness of experience. Let no one then be discouraged because he thinks he has no chance of being included: he who is possessed of that spirit proclaims himself to be no cricketer of grit. Even if you don't realise

your hopes this time, the practice will have given you more confidence and cannot but improve your game if your practice is not frivolous. Of course, certain names are already mentioned as those of persons not unlikely to gain the coveted honour of a place in the local eleven. But it is obviously premature to canvas the merits or claims of any one at present. Very much, if not everything, will depend on the individual form displayed in the next month or so. This much may be depended upon, that no one will be chosen simply because he has borne a local or English reputation: present form in batting, bowling, and fielding will be the sole ground of selection. "Friend pidgin," personal feelings, hesitation to weed out, cannot be allowed to influence the selection, of which the sole purpose must be to place in the field the most earnest, skilful and hard-working eleven that can be got together in the Colony. News reaches us of the calibre of the visiting elevens. The Straits XI is reported to be stronger than the 1897 XI; and Shanghai is stated to have an eleven good enough to play the Surrey Colts and to be one of the best amateur elevens ever seen! Assume this to be so. The very rumours should stimulate us to put forth every effort to be as fit as we can to meet such doughty opponents and to contemplate the extra glory of victory. They should have a bracing effect, and make our hearts stouter and our training more strict. Admit that at present bowling is our weakest point—it is a libel on our bowling if it is meant that our fielding is better than our bowling—but admit it for the sake of argument: the inference is that we must strengthen bowling by rendering our fielding efficient. To that end special attention must be paid to this most important and finest department to cricket. Practice away from the nets must be arranged for: each man should get accustomed to his appointed place in the field. Apart from organised practice, every man should spend a portion of his practice in short and long catching and in ground-fielding. Bad fielding makes the best bowling innocuous, because hitting the stumps is not the sole object of a bowler: chances accepted, runs saved, and men run out will make moderate bowling difficult to cope with. Newcomers should be told that forward play is essential to bat success on the normal wickets of the Club: few occasions for back play offer. It remains only to say that if we mean to win, we must, one and all, gird up our loins and put our whole soul into the business. Local pride and honour, not to mention the generous support of the community at large, make this reasonable demand upon us. Enthusiasm and determination! These are the requisite qualities.

SPORTING AND OTHER NOTES.

The Hongkong Cricket Ground is again open, and the practice-nets are in their usual position. Why this position, 2 nets at one end of the ground and 2 nets at the other exactly opposite each other, was ever chosen I never could make out. It is utterly impossible at present to practice fielding with any degree of pleasure or safety, as whatever position the fielder takes up he has to stand with his back to two of the four batsmen at the nets and run a very good chance of getting a ball on the back of his head. The ordinary and sensible way would be to place the four nets at one side of the ground and put the screens at the other side, and the players who wished to practise fielding could then do so with safety, as they would be facing all the batsmen instead of standing with their backs to two of them. Fielding should be encouraged and not made impossible, as it is here when the nets are up. That excellent article on fielding by "An Old Fogey" should incite our cricketers to study the art. Some of them could—well improve their cricket in this respect and would, no doubt, come and practise if the nets were arranged differently.

I see the missing of catches has forced itself upon the notice of home players, and in the worst recorded week of first-class cricket 49 catches were missed and the batsmen thus favoured scored 1,439 runs after they were let off. This is only taking the chances that the spectators have the right to expect in first-class cricket should be accepted,

and does not include sharp chances to wicket-keepers and marvellous catches in the slips, which sometimes come off in a miraculous way. In the County matches Middlesex were the worst offenders in "dropped catches" with 8 matches played and 32 catches missed and Notts were pretty bad with 14 matches and 35 catches missed—this easily accounts for some of their defeats. In one week at home 49 catches were missed at a cost of 1,439 runs, and it will be interesting to see what each catch dropped costs in the forthcoming Cricket Week. The above figures show at any rate what Hongkong may save in the way of runs to the other side if they practise fielding and consequently do not miss the catches.

I find I made a mistake when I said last week that in racing here "fractions of an inch counted in favour of the horse as regards height." That is not the case; but at the last meeting animals measuring 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 15 $\frac{1}{4}$, etc., etc., were put down as 14 and 15 hands respectively. It appears that in this Club there is only an allowance in racing Walers of 3 lbs. an inch and fractions of an inch (as is right) count in favour of the horse as far as weight is concerned. But it gives an erroneous idea to the members and the public if a pony measuring 14 hands 15/16 inch is put down as measuring 14 hands only. Of course the allowance of 3 lbs. an inch when racing Walers, English, and Arab ponies is not enough, as in India (the home of pony-racing) the allowance is 3 lbs. for every quarter of an inch and even that allowance will seldom bring a 13.2 and 14 hands or a 14 hands and 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ together.

In looking through the Rules of the Hongkong Jockey Club the other day I was surprised to find only Rules as regards the constitution of the Club! All the rules as to weight, allowances racing, etc., are printed as bye-laws on the first sheet of the Race Book printed for each Meeting, and I presume therefore a new member has to hunt up some old race book before he can gain any knowledge of the rules of racing, allowances, etc., in force in this country? It seems odd in a place like this and in Shanghai that all the rules of racing, etc., etc., are not all incorporated in one book. And how is it that Hongkong and China generally are not racing under one set of rules?

I see that the Shanghai Race Club have passed a resolution against any but bona fide members of the Race Club racing at their meetings. This excludes honorary members from taking any part in the racing itself, which was not the case until the resolution referred to was passed. It was found by the Shanghai Race Club that it was often very unsatisfactory to allow persons to run ponies, who were not bona fide members of the Race Club. I certainly think that the Shanghai Club has passed a very sensible resolution, as horse-racing is a pastime where disputes are constantly arising, and moreover considerable sums of money are often dependent on the result of any particular point which has to be decided by the stewards, affecting, too, persons other than the disputants; and therefore it must be far better, if possible, to put all the members of a Racing Club on exactly the same footing. As far as I can see there is no special reason why any Racing Club should be anxious to have a large number of honorary members—it must certainly be against the pecuniary interest of the Club to do so, and out in the East none could object to paying the small amount which is asked for entrance fee and subscription. I would suggest that the Hongkong Jockey Club give this matter their attention.

The Football Club opens the season with the six-a-side matches next week, and I hope these games will bring out fresh talent. The Club has several old players to start with and what they chiefly now require is a good back to play with Russell and a centre forward who can get goals. The weak point of the Club has always been in front of goal—the forwards are faster than any other team and have no difficulty as a rule in getting more than their share of shots at goal, but owing to want of practice cannot get the ball through. To be able to shoot goals is, as in most other sports, all a matter of practice, and while the members of the other Clubs

are practising 4 or 5 times a week the members of the Hongkong Club never dream of such a thing as practising shooting, and only go near the ground when they are to play a match. This is not enough, and if the Club XI wish to win the Shield again they must go down to the ground 2 or 3 times a week and practice in front of goal.

VETERAN.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB WATER CARNIVAL

If the recent annual aquatic sports of this Club were a success, the water carnival on the 21st inst. was even more pronounced in that respect. The day was warm enough to cause the many hundreds of spectators—if we include the ladies—to watch with an envious regard those disporting themselves in the cool waters of the swimming pond. The prizes won at the sports were to be given out at the close of the day, and everyone who could possibly be present attended to be "in at the death" to hear the speeches, or rather remarks, that were sure to be made, and to see what rewards the winners got for their prowess. The stand was crowded till not even standing room could be had, the lighter moored immediately opposite—from which the white-uniformed band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers discoursed enchanting music—was also crowded, and so, too, was the lightly-built wooden bridge construction leading from stand to barge, which creaked and groaned in ominous protest against the weight of the scores who leaned over its weak-looking rail to watch the sport in the water below.

On Saturday the card showed nine events, but the "balloon ascent," to the disappointment of many, did not come off, perhaps a rather fortunate thing, on the whole, for the "aeronauts." Professors McChiney and Von Kopperjockmann, for the balloon was small, and could not well have been expected to act rationally under the burden of passengers with such appellations. There were a two-lengths handicap, a tub race in fancy costume, an egg-and-spoon race, a two lengths (leap-frog) race, a greasy pole competition, a high dive, a blindfold race, and a tournament, in which two rafts carrying each ten men were propelled from opposite ends of the pond till they touched, when a battle royal ensued, the winning party being that which had the greatest number of survivors when the "fight" was over. No competitor succeeded in walking the length of the greasy pole, and the live duck secured in the box nailed at the end of the pole remained, in blissful ignorance of the fate it had escaped, for when a competitor reaches the box the duck goes into the pond and has a rather rough time of it at the hands of the swimmers, who strive each to be first to reach the bewildered bird.

At the conclusion of the carnival everyone hurried to the gymnasium of the Club, large and airy, where the presentation of prizes was to be made by Mrs. Hastings, wife of Commander Hastings, the Colony's Postmaster-General and the Club's worthy chairman. At the upper end of the gymnasium was a table on which were exposed the various prizes won—a beautiful and costly selection of gold and silver ware, comprising cups, badges, cigarette-cases, silver-mounted walking-sticks, and other nick-nacks. Placed on the floor and leaning against the table was the handsome, glass-enclosed silver Water Polo Challenge Shield of the Club, the face of which bore the inscription—"Presented by the community, to be competed for annually by naval, military, and civilian water-polo teams. Instituted 1898." Mr. A. A. Alves, whose prowess in the water gained him quite half-a-dozen prizes at the recent sports, captained the team which won the first year's competition, and again had that honour this year. On the table, too, was a handsome case containing a present of silver ware to Commander Hastings, the nature and purpose of which are explained later on.

Without unnecessary delay the distribution of prizes was proceeded with.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who was chairman of the Club during Commander Hastings's absence, presided, and, in introducing Mrs. Hastings, said—"Ladies and gentlemen, we are very fortunate indeed this afternoon,

in having Mrs. Hastings here to give away our prizes, and I am sure it is exceedingly kind of her, seeing that she only arrived in this Colony a few days ago from England, and must therefore have a great many matters to attend to. (Hear, hear.) But as all of you who have been any time in the Colony know, Mrs. Hastings has always evinced a very great interest indeed in the proceedings of the Victoria Recreation Club. I will now call upon her to give away the prizes. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

Mrs. HASTINGS then gave out the prizes to the following winners—

FIRST DAY—THURSDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER.

Half-Mile Championship of the Colony.—1, A. A. Alves; 2, N. H. Alves.

Two Lengths Handicap.—1, A. M. Roza Pereira (Senr); 2, M. McIver.

Plunging.—1, A. Humphreys; 2, A. Loureiro.

Four Lengths Handicap.—1, N. H. Alves; 2, S. R. Moore.

Four Lengths (Army, Navy, and Police).—1, Sergt. Major Wiseman, R.A.M.C.; 2, Private W. Roberts.

Two Lengths Handicap.—1, N. H. Alves; 2, H. Lammert.

SECOND DAY—FRIDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER.

Championship of the Colony (200 yards).—1, N. H. Alves; 2, A. A. Alves.

Swim Under Water.—1, A. Humphreys; 2, M. A. Razak.

Boys' Race (11-15).—1, E. L. Alves; 2, J. Reberio.

Team Race.—A. A. Alves' team Names—

A. A. Alves (captain), F. M. Roza Pereira, R. Henderson, F. D. Bain, S. R. Moore, G. J. V. Jorge, Jr.

THIRD DAY—SATURDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER.

Running Header from Springboard.—1, A. A. Alves; 2, F. Jorge.

High Dive.—1, A. A. Alves; 2, F. Jorge.

Ladies' Nomination.—1, A. A. Alves; 2, A. J. Mackie; 3, N. H. Alves.

Water Polo.—Winning Team—A. E. S. Alves (captain), A. Loureiro, A. Humphreys, F. M. Roza Pereira, F. D. Bain, C. M. S. Alves, R. Henderson.

Consolation Race.—A. E. S. Alves.

Championship of the Club (a special prize awarded to winner of most points in non-handicap events). Presented by Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.—A. A. Alves. The prize was a very handsome silver cup.

WATER CARNIVAL.

Four Lengths Handicap.—1, N. H. Alves; 2, S. R. Moore.

Tub Race—C. E. Alves. Best costume, E. R. Miller.

Two Lengths (Leap Frog).—Parnie and R. Lapsley.

Ladies' Nomination.—1, M. A. Razack; 2, C. M. S. Alves; 3, H. Seth.

Blindford Race.—A. Humphreys.

Egg and Spoon Race.—J. H. R. Hance.

Water Polo Challenge Shield.—Winning team—A. A. Alves (captain), C. E. Hance, F. D. Bain, N. H. Alves, A. Humphreys, R. Lapsley, F. Jorge. The winners received a gold badge each, and hold the Shield for one year.

Second team (silver badges)—L. Cor. Holland (captain), Corporal Hogg, Private Roberts, Private Collins, Private Gregory, Private Mouk, Private Andrews.

This concluded the prize presentation ceremony, and the CHAIRMAN, addressing Commander Hastings, said—"Captain Hastings, it is my pleasant privilege this afternoon, on behalf of the members of the Victoria Recreation Club, to make a presentation to you in recognition of your very valuable service as chairman of the Club. These services are very highly appreciated indeed by the members of the Club, especially in view of the fact that you were chairman at a very difficult time indeed, when the old building of the Club was knocked down to make way for what I believe is technically though somewhat libellously called "Naval Works Extraordinary." (Hear, hear.) The thanks of members are also due to you in particular for your advocacy of the claims of the Club, when the Naval Yard reclamation is finally made, that a corner should be found on that reclamation for the Club's new premises. (Hear, hear.) In that project you have met with consistent support from the president of our Club, H.E. the Governor, and

I may say that although nothing is definitely settled as yet the naval authorities are disposed to view this important matter in a very friendly and sympathetic spirit. (Hear, hear). Members may therefore confidently hope, I think, that in the course of a few years this Club will be so fortunate as to possess a nice building upon the north-west corner of the Naval Yard reclamation, with water sheltered from the prevailing wind in winter in the lee of that reclamation. (Hear, hear.) I think, Captain Hastings, it is unnecessary for me to say anything further in making this presentation. The services you have rendered for the Club are very well-known and appreciated, and I would ask you now, on behalf of the members of the Victoria Recreation Club, to accept this testimonial of the very great regard in which you are held by them. (Applause.)

Mr. POLLOCK then handed to Commander Hastings the case containing the silver salver and tea set, and a beautifully chased silver cigar case bearing the following inscription:—"Victoria Recreation Club, Hongkong, 21st September, 1901. To Commander W. C. Hastings, R.N., in recognition of the many valuable services rendered to the Club during his tenure of the office of Chairman."

In replying, Commander HASTINGS said—Mr. Chairman and members of the Victoria Recreation Club, I have to thank you very sincerely for the exceedingly beautiful presents I have received from you. Anything I may have tried to do for the Club I assure you was a labour of love. (Laughter.) The Chairman of a club like this has really a very easy time of it indeed. He has an excellent committee, who always keep him straight when he tries to go out of the beaten path. The people who have to work hard are the secretaries, and one chairman wears out a number of secretaries. (Laughter.) I have had Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Yule, Mr. Reid, and—oh, I am sure I have forgotten one or two. (A voice—"Mr. Lammert.") As far as anything I was able to do at the time I was on leave went, I think the thanks of the Club are due to Admiral Holland. When I saw Mr. Austin Chamberlain, who was then Civil Lord of the Admiralty, I found he knew more than I did. He produced a plan by Admiral Holland, and in fact I found the whole thing cut and dried. I assure you, ladies and gentlemen, I should have done more happily if this presentation had not been so utterly unexpected. That is one thing a chairman has to do—to make speeches now and again. I always used to have plenty of warning about these things, but on the present occasion I got no warning whatever. (Laughter.) I will ask you to excuse me, ladies and gentlemen, for the lame way in which I have returned thanks for your beautiful presents. (Cheers and applause.)

The proceedings were brought to a graceful conclusion in the presentation by the CHAIRMAN of a lovely bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Hastings, and after the band had played the National Anthem hearty cheers were given for Commander and Mrs. Hastings and for the ladies.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the above Club, for the purpose of receiving the committee's report on the past season and for electing the committee and officers for the forthcoming season, was held in the Cricket Pavilion yesterday afternoon at five o'clock, the Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, C.M.G., in the chair.

After the reading of the minutes by the Secretary, the CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been with all of you for some days, and as you will see by them we have a balance to our credit of \$94.53. A large number of interesting matches were played under Association and Rugby rules, and the form shown by the players was, if anything, better than that of previous years. Taking everything into consideration, I must say that the prospects of our Club are very rosy.

The election of officers was next in order, and the following gentlemen were elected:—Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, C.M.G., President; Mr. McMurtrie, Rugby Captain; Mr. A. R. Lowe, Association Captain, Mr. B. C. M. Johnston, Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. Frank Brown, Hon. Secretary.

Mr. BROWN, before accepting re-election to

the Secretary's post, said he wanted to be sure that no one else wanted it. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN assured Mr. Brown that he could rest easy no one else would have the post, nor could any one else fill it so efficiently.

The following gentlemen were elected on the Committee for the ensuing season:—Messrs. Slade, Kew, Goldring, Howard, Stevens and Russell.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

THE SIX-A-SIDE COMPETITION.

The arrangements for the Six-a-side Challenge Cup and Medals of the Hongkong Football Club were made on the 24th inst. The following are the seven competing teams:—

J. McMurtrie (Capt.)	C. T. Kew (Capt.)
W. W. Clark	S. L. Jenkins
E. M. Bishop	R. Henderson
W. R. Robertson	H. S. Holmes
E. D. C. Wolfe	J. H. Seth
J. Hays	J. Bosustow
W. H. Russell (Capt.)	A. R. Lowe (Capt.)
P. A. Cox	H. A. Seth
B. E. Hanson	H. Von der Pfadt
D. M. Graham	R. E. N. Padfield
H. Sandford	R. Kerr
H. F. Henningsen	E. Burns-Pye
A. M. Beattie (Capt.)	J. D. Danby (Capt.)
N. H. Rutherford	C. H. P. Hay
C. G. Danby	C. J. Libeaud
L. J. C. Anderson	E. W. Carpenter
G. B. Macdonald, R.A.	E. J. Davies
G. H. Edwards	W. Armstrong

P. W. Goldring (Capt.)
W. G. Worcester
R. C. Wilkinson, R.N.
H. Arthur
J. H. A. Hance
J. H. Rodier

The following will act as substitutes:—J. W. Crouch, J. Norton-Kyshe, J. Hooper, C. P. Chater, Jun., J. P. Jordan, H. S. Bevan, J. G. Smith, T. W. Hornby, and J. V. Begannett.

The matches have been arranged to take place at ten minutes past five on the following days:—

September 30.	Kew v. Beattie.
	Russell v. Danby.
October 2.	Lowe v. Goldring.
"	Beattie v. Russell.
"	Lowe v. Kew.
"	Kew v. Danby.
"	Lowe v. Beattie.
"	Russell v. McMurtrie.
"	Goldring v. Kew.
"	Lowe v. Russell.
"	Danby v. McMurtrie.
"	Goldring v. Beattie.
"	Beattie v. McMurtrie.
"	Goldring v. Russell.
"	Lowe v. Danby.
"	Danby v. Goldring.
"	Lowe v. McMurtrie.
"	Kew v. Russell.
"	Goldring v. McMurtrie.
"	Beattie v. Danby.
"	Kew v. McMurtrie.

The Club colours are white crêpe shirt, dark blue knickers and stockings.

CRICKET.

The opening cricket match of the season will take place to-day, the 28th inst., starting at 11 a.m. The following will represent the teams:—

XII.

Major Dorehill, R.A.	K. W. Mounsey
Capt. Waymouth	Lt. Ross, R.N.
F. Maitland	Lt. Clifton Brown, R.N.
A. Mackenzie	Private Preedy, R.W.F.
R. E. E. Kriekenbeck,	Dr. Atkinson
22nd B. I.	J. E. Lee
	Captain Radcliffe, R.E.

"XXII."

L. E. Lammert	B. E. Hanson
W. R. Robertson	A. Humphreys
T. J. Wild	P. W. Goldring
B. W. Grey	J. H. Smyth
Major Battashaw	C. Paul Chater
C. G. Danby	E. L. Libeaud
W. G. Worcester	E. J. Davies
H. M. Man	T. C. Gray
R. J. Gerrard	J. Hooper

J. P. Jordan	Lieut. Browne, R.E.
Lieut. Stevens, R. E.	J. Brown
Grant Smith	G. W. Woodcock
Corporal Letten, R. A.	G. Grimble
A. Cunningham	A. B. Rouse
C. H. P. Hay	J. A. Doctor
	H. M. Bain

The "XXII" will be captained by T. Sercombe Smith.

THE "CENTURION" AT HOME.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Portsmouth, 23rd August.

The inhabitants of this ancient borough have been on the throes of anticipation consequent on the return of the battleship *Centurion*, Captain John R. Jellicoe, C. B., bearing the flag of Admiral Sir Edward H. Seymour, G.C.B., from her long and eventful commission on the China Station.

On the 14th inst. the Mayor, Alderman A. Leon Emanuel, J. P., who has been a visitor to Hongkong and Shanghai, called a public meeting, relative to the reception thought best to be given the home-comers and it was resolved to entertain them at a banquet and reception, consequently there were many subscribers to same.

On Monday, 19th inst. the *Centurion* was met off Portland by admiralty officials, and the paying-off trials were proceeded with en route to Spithead, where the yachtsmen, steamers, and all craft cheered and whistled a welcome. As the battleship steamed slowly into harbour cheers were raised by the crowds who had gathered at vantage points on the shore, piers, and batteries, whilst the crews of all H.M. ships, being officially bidden to cheer the ship, obeyed the mandate with great heartiness. Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, who stood on the after bridge watching, with smiling features, the animated scene on the dockyard jetty and the boats which crowded around his ship, was evidently highly pleased with the hearty welcome home given to him and his men.

The South Railway jetty was crowded with the relatives and friends of officers and men. No sooner was the ship moored and the gangway out than people began to swarm aboard. Almost the first up the gangway were Lord Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty; Vice-Admiral A. L. Douglas, Second Sea Lord; Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Nowell Salmon; the old China hand, Admiral Buller; Admiral Superintendent Pelham Aldrich; and Flag Capt. Jones, Lady Hotham, Lady Salmon and Miss Salmon, and Lady Davis, wife of General Sir John Davis, were on the jetty. For about three-quarters of an hour people poured into the ship in one continual stream, until cabins were full, and there was hardly a spare inch of room anywhere, and the signs of glad meetings were universal.

On the following day a visit of inspection was paid by the Earl of Selborne (first Lord of Admiralty) Vice-Admiral A. L. Douglass, Captain J. Durnford, C.B., D.S.O. (Sea Lords), and Rear-Admiral W. H. Fawkes, Private Secretary to Earl of Selborne, and the Earl of Selborne's son. The officers and men of the ship were fallen in at their stations, and a guard of honour of Marines was mounted on the quarter-deck. Admiral Seymour received his distinguished visitors as they went over the ship's side, and stood for some considerable time chatting with the First Lord. Lord Selborne introduced his son to the gallant Admiral, who then conducted the First Lord and his party over the ship.

After the inspection, which lasted some time, the men assembled on deck, and Lord Selborne in stentorian voice said:—

"I am commanded by His Majesty the King to welcome you here. My colleagues, the Lords of the Admiralty, also are glad to welcome the ship home, and to thank all the officers and men for the manner in which they have upheld the traditions of the Navy in China."

Lord Selborne then announced that in consideration of the *Centurion's* long commission, extending over four and a half years, the ship's company would be granted an additional week's leave, making in all ten weeks.

Subsequently Admiral Sir Charles and Lady Hotham entertained the Admiralty Lords and

Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour to lunch at Admiralty House.

On Wednesday morning the Mayor paid an official visit, and was received by Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour and Capt. Jellicoe and Flag-Lieutenant Fair and officers. The Mayor heartily congratulated them and all the crew upon their safe return after their arduous work in China.

In the course of a conversation with Admiral Seymour, the Mayor learned that there are about 350 officers and men who landed and proceeded to Peking, and in the name of the borough his Worship asked the gallant Admiral to accept, on his own, his officers and his men's behalf, an invitation from the whole town to dine at a public banquet at the Town Hall on September 11th. Admiral Seymour replied that he was very proud indeed to receive such a high honour from the inhabitants of Portsmouth, and cordially accepted the kind invitation tendered to him, his officers, and his crew. He further intimated that, although he was hauling down his flag that evening, he would certainly be only too glad to travel from any part of England to be present on such an occasion.

The Naval Brigade will march through the streets of Portsmouth, which will be profusely decorated, on the 14th, and proceed to the Town Hall accompanied by several bands. Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour will pay a special visit to Portsmouth for the occasion, and stay at the world-renowned Keppel's Head Hotel, where he will proceed to the Town Hall in the Mayor's carriage and escort of mounted police following.

The exterior and interior of the Town Hall will be specially and suitably decorated for the occasion by the authorities on similar lines to that when the *Powerful* Brigade were entertained. The Mayoress will present, on this occasion, to each officer and men present a silver enamel pendant suitably engraved "China Expedition, 1900-1901."

Following in the footsteps of the *Powerful*, the ship's company of H.M.S. *Centurion* have decided to erect a memorial in Portsmouth to commemorate their comrades who fell in China. The Parks and Open Spaces Committee were asked to allot a site in Victoria Park for the memorial, but the committee were divided in opinion on the matter. They therefore delegated the matter to a sub-committee, who will select a site for the memorial.

During the absence of the *Centurion* of four and a half years, events of great international importance have been crowded into the exciting record of the flag-ship, and it was this fact which accounted for the unusual interest manifested in her arrival at Portsmouth on Monday. It has been one of the most eventful commissions of modern times, for it has witnessed a period of much stress and national anxiety. We remember the crisis which arose through Russia's occupation of Port Arthur; we remember later the friendly appearance which the *Centurion* put in at Manila when there were suggestions of European intervention in America's operations in the Philippines; and we remember with pain, not unmixed with pride, the foremost place which members of the *Centurion*'s crew took in the incidents of the famous attempt of the international naval force to relieve the Legations. The crew have helped to make history which shall redound to the honour of old England, and every chapter in which they have figured has only seemed to increase the nation's gratitude.

The crew have, however, at last returned, and with them they have brought numerous curios as mementoes of the part which they took in attempting to suppress the Boxer rising; so many, in fact, that it is said every magazine in the ship is required in which to store these objects of interest. When the public poured on to the vessel yesterday afternoon those who had no friends to greet interested themselves in inspecting these trophies of war, which lay scattered about, and they evidently found them absorbingly interesting. The bluejackets seemed to take quite a pride in showing them to the onlookers, and the history connected with the curios were apparently known to each of the jolly tars. In various parts of the ship there was quite a formidable array of bows and arrows, carbines, and other munitions captured from the Chinese, and one could not help thinking what a lot of mischief might

really have been perpetrated had not these articles been politely appropriated by the British. However, these were not the curios which claimed most attention, but rather some of the guns on deck. The most interesting of these was undoubtedly a 4-in. Krupp gun—this having been taken from the North-west Fort, Taku. It was captured from the British in the second Chinese war, in the year 1853, and it is gratifying to know that after many days it has at last come into the hands of its rightful owners. Under these circumstances it is understood that the gun will be off red to the Admiralty.

There are also two Chinese muzzle-loaders, which fell into the hands of Admiral Seymour's men and also a small Krupp gun, which was annexed when the Chinamen turned over the forts at Shantakwan. The most curious of all is a one-inch old iron gun taken from Tientsin. It is unmounted, is painted red, and is, strangely enough, enclosed in places between pieces of rough doow. The gun is comparatively light, and is suspended in a prominent position on the lower deck by cords, and proves not a little interesting.

Some of the men have pet animals which they have found during their sojourn abroad; some have various species of wild birds; some have images used in idolatrous worship—but all have something to show their friends and the public in general; and it might be incidentally mentioned that some of the articles which look singularly commonplace usually have a great history behind them to form the subject of a thrilling yarn.

When one is hunting about a ship in search of foreign curios the sudden appearance of some nineteen Chinamen was, to say the least, somewhat startling. But they looked so inoffensive that it seemed quite in the nature of things to give one an opportunity of airing his pidgin English. This particular Chinaman was armed with a chopper which he used to dispense meat to his comrades, and he used it with such dexterity as to be highly suggestive that he had exercised this gentle art to another purpose on former occasions. But the Chinaman never divulged more than necessary, so one had to remain in blissful ignorance upon this point. These Chinamen are domestics on board, and will be transferred to the *Cressy* as soon as the *Centurion* is paid off.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN CLEMENS.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Captain Clemens excited great interest among all foreign residents in China. It will be remembered that deceased was found dead in his cabin aboard the *Kwangping*, on the morning of the 2nd of April last, shot through the head. On the 13th of April a lengthy enquiry was held at the German Consulate, Shanghai, into the circumstances of the death, and as a result of this enquiry the Court found that death was either self-inflicted or accidental. Many people who knew Captain Clemens, says the N.C. *Daily News*, have been dissatisfied with this verdict, in that it cast a slur upon the deceased's memory and was most distressing for his relations, and it was further asserted that it might be possible to show that the deceased gentleman could not have committed suicide, under the circumstances.

Our Shanghai morning contemporary records some very interesting experiments made on board the steamer *Kwangping* on the morning of the 16th inst. under conditions as nearly possible similar to those existing at the time of Capt. Clemens's death.

The first experiment was to test the sound and effects of smoke from a rifle shot fired in the captain's cabin. The skylights and windows of the cabin were closed, the cabin door left open and the chart-room door closed, as was the case when Captain Clemens was found dead. Mr. Forrester lay in the bunk and fired off the rifle, pulling the trigger with his foot. The room was immediately filled with dense smoke which penetrated to the chart-room. Ten minutes later the three bluejackets, who had not been in the room previously, entered and found that the cabin was still full of smoke, the smell of which could not be taken for anything

but that of gunpowder. The sound of the shot could be heard distinctly in the chart-room and on the bridge; indeed, standing on the bridge near the wheel, one could feel the concussion to the feet when the shot was fired, and the report was easily distinguishable as that of a gun. This and all the experiments were made with cartridges exactly similar to that found in the weapon by which Captain Clemens met his death. In order that each of those present should have an opportunity of hearing the report from different standpoints, more shots were fired in the cabin, but the opinion was general that the sound was that of a gun and could not easily be taken for anything else.

The next experiment was the firing of shot into a bag of mutton which was placed where Captain Clemens' head had lain. The reason for this was that it was thought that the firing into flesh at close quarters might deaden the sound. The rifle was fired with the muzzle about half-an-inch from the flesh, but in this case the sound was just the same as before and carried quite as far, the mutton being scorched over a similar area to the burnt portion of Captain Clemens's face as seen when the body was exhumed in April.

The remainder of the experiments had reference to the pulling of the trigger with the toe and the arrangement of the bedclothes. A bluejacket lay in the bunk, with the clothes arranged as they had been found when Captain Clemens's body was discovered. The man had great difficulty in finding the trigger with his toe, and also found it hard to pull. In raising and bending the knee to pull the trigger it was seen that the bedclothes must be disarranged. Another noteworthy fact was that in each case in which this experiment was made, the man's natural inclination was to grasp the rifle firmly in both hands, the left at the muzzle and the right a little further down. When Captain Clemens was found dead, however, his right hand was not grasping the rifle at all.

The whole of the experiments, says the *Daily News*, went to show that if Captain Clemens did commit suicide, he did so under almost impossible conditions, when far more easy ways were open to him.

ALFRED THE GREAT.

A. D. 871-901.

More dark and still more dark, the Northern foe
Like winged terror come. The land is swayed
By trembling fear; soon once fair fields are
made

A. sadening waste and peaceful homes laid low
In blood and tears; holiest shrines forego
Perforce their robes and gold. None yet had
stayed

The dreaded battle-axe or undismayed
Beat back the Danes, or stemmed the tide of woe,
Till thou didst rise and valiantly withstand
The plundering hordes, the oppressors of the
land.

The nations trust, O king! failed not in thee;
In thy bright day first glowed the light whose
flame

Kindled the topmost heavens, till it became
The sun of peace and power and liberty

INCISE

Canton, 19th September.

The selection of Mr. John Barrett, formerly United States Minister to Siam, as Commissioner-General to Asia and Australasia, was approved by the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company on the 12th ult. The duties of the position are to interest the governments and the people of Asia and Australasia in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, that they may make exhibits and erect State buildings at the Exposition. The jurisdiction of the newly appointed Commissioner-General extends over China, Siberia, Japan, Corea, Siam, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and the South Sea Islands. He will also visit the newly acquired possessions of the United States—the Philippines, Guam and Hawaii—to interest industrial agencies there in the Exposition. The United States Government exhibit will embrace an exposition of the resources of the island possessions, but will not cover exhibits of private enterprises there.

HONGKONG.

According to *L'Echo de Chine*, it is reported that Mr. Liebert, formerly a Marine officer, is to succeed M. Le Roux as French Consul at Hongkong.

The Hon. Sec. of the Hongkong Jockey Club informed us that a telegram has been received from Singapore containing the information that it was expected the subscription griffins for Hongkong would be shipped on the 25th instant.

A fire broke out in a dwelling-house at Yau-nati on Wednesday night, between the hours of 11 and 12. It soon made headway, and in spite of the strenuous efforts of the fire brigade, the building was thoroughly gutted before the fire was brought under control.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. A. W. Brewin resumed his duties as Registrar-General on the 16th inst., and Commander W. C. H. Hastings his duties as Postmaster-General on the 18th. Mr. Brewin has been appointed Member of the Legislative Council, during the absence of the Hon. F. H. May, and Vice-President of the Sanitary Board.

A billiard tournament will commence on the 3rd prox., at the Soldiers' Club, the prize being a massive silver cup presented by the Club, and a souvenir for each member of the winning team and a prize for the highest break during the tournament, which will be open to the members and honorary members, this including the troops in garrison, the Navy, the Volunteers and Police.

On the 22nd inst. fire broke out in a samshu store on the second floor of No. 369, Queen's Road Central. Damage to a considerable extent was done. But for the prompt action of Sergeant Dymond and Constables Broomfield and Wilden, who hurried along with a despatch box and extinguished the flames before the arrival of the Brigade, much more damage would have resulted.

Last week's plague cases were two (one in Victoria), with two deaths, bringing the year's figures up to:—1,641 cases (1,557 Chinese, 53 other Asiatics, 31 Europeans); 1,570 deaths (1,523 Chinese, 35 other Asiatics, 12 Europeans). The only other communicable disease reported was enteric fever, of which there were three European cases in the Harbour, two proving fatal.

At Wanchai on 22nd inst. a Chinaman committed a murderous assault on a boy of fifteen years, named Li Wo. He struck him repeatedly with his fists about the shoulders and chest and other parts of the body, and left him unconscious. The boy was at first believed to be so seriously injured that when he was removed to the hospital the police took his depositions. He rallied, however, and gave the name of his assailant, who was arrested. The man was charged at the Magistracy on Monday and remanded till the 30th inst. The boy is now reported to be doing well.

Major William Rutherford Little, of the Hongkong Regiment, whose death at Tientsin on the 13th inst. we regret to announce, has for some time been ailing and only recently returned to the Colony from sick-leave. He left again for North China very soon, and no information has since been made public as to his condition. His death comes as a great shock to his friends. Major Little gained his 2nd lieutenancy in 1880, his lieutenancy in 1881, his captaincy in 1891, when he served with the second Miranzai Expedition, gaining the medal with clasp, and became Major on the 14th January, 1900. He came to the Hongkong Regiment in 1897 from the 21st Punjabis.

About nine o'clock on the 23rd inst., as a gang of coolies numbering about thirty were engaged on excavation work in Bridges Street, at the back of Queen's College, in connection with property that is to be erected there, about forty tons of loose earth gave way and rolled on top of the men working below. They, however, managed to extricate themselves, with the exception of one named Chan Cheng, residing at 66, Ladder Street, who was killed almost instantaneously, and whose dead body was recovered some time later by the police under Inspector McNab. A search amongst the fallen material showed that the casualties were fortunately limited to this one fatality. Acting Captain Superintendent Badeley and Acting Deputy Superintendent Mackie visited the scene of the landslip to render aid if required.

Albert Hind gave himself up as a deserter from His Majesty's West Riding Regiment, on Wednesday afternoon. He says that he deserted in October, 1900.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that 341 non-Chinese and 117 Chinese visited the former, and 67 non-Chinese and 1,590 Chinese the latter institution.

According to the *Courrier d'Haiphong* the property at Kowloon belonging to the Tonkin Coal Company, which was bought in 1896 for 528,170.26 francs and stood in the Company's books at 441,045.48 francs, has been sold for 1,631,578.82 francs. This property is what is known as the Briquette Factory, which lies to the north of the naval basin at Tsimshatsui.

A meeting of the Licensing Court was held at the Magistracy on the 24th inst., Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Police Magistrate, in the chair. Mr. F. H. Kemp, Acting Police Magistrate, and Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, chief clerk at the Magistracy, were present. The business was to consider an application from John Lacock for a publican's license for the Bay View Hotel. The application was granted unanimously.

The other day Store-Sergeant Williams, Central Police Station, gave a coolie a chit for fifteen cents for carrying medicine from the Government Civil Hospital, and told him to give it to a certain *lukong*, who would get him the money. The *lukong* took the chit from the coolie and paid him the fifteen cents out of his own pocket. Then, with a couple of strokes of the pen, he altered the figure "1" to "4," and took the chit to Inspector McNab, to whom he presented it. The inspector thought forty-five cents rather a stiff price to pay a coolie for carrying medicine, and consequently made enquiries. The fraud was detected, and the enterprising *lukong* at the Police Court on Monday got six months for his smartness with the pen:

At a meeting of the Court of the College of Medicine for Chinese, held on the 24th inst. in the Legislative Council Chamber, and presided over by the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Rector of the College, the following resolution recognising the services of the late Mr. Francis to that institution was adopted:—"That the Court of the Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese desire to express their profound regret at the sudden death of Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., Standing Counsel of the College since its foundation in the year 1887, and their sense of the great loss the institution has sustained by being deprived of the wide knowledge and ripe experience which Mr. Francis always so readily placed at the disposal of his colleagues in the Court. The Court further desire to convey to Mrs. Francis their deep sympathy in her sad bereavement."

An incident which gave rise to no little excitement among a bathing party occurred on the 21st inst. Some ladies and gentlemen proceeded to Dumbell Island on Saturday afternoon. The latter were making their way to the shore, when suddenly shouts of alarm from the Chinese boys on the launch reached them. Some object in the water evidently was the cause. One of the party happened to be a Chinese scholar and ultimately he caught the word for "shark." He communicated the news to his friends and all swam in as soon as possible. The last man had just got ashore when the dorsal fin of the animal appeared quite close. Bathing was naturally over for the day. The boys on the launch, some of whom were private servants, were positive that it was a shark, and not a dolphin, and its length was estimated at ten feet long. The bathing party could not see sufficient of the visitor to ascertain for certain that it was a shark, but the fact of its pursuing them convinced them that they were better out of the water than in it. Bathing parties should take notice of this fact.

H.M.S. *Argonaut* arrived from Nagasaki on the 21st inst. On her way down she encountered a typhoon on the 17th inst., but suffered no damage.

The French cruiser *Amiral Charner* left on the 24th inst. Saigon, and the German gunboat *Iltis* went for a cruise.

On the 26th inst. the British transport *Penarth* left for Taku.

COMMERCIAL.**TEA.****EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.**

	1901-2 lbs.	1900-1 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai.....	—	—
Amoy and Formosa.....	292,550	231,994
Foochow	—	—
Canton	—	—
	292,550	271,994

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1901-2 1900-01
Shanghai	—
Amoy and Formosa.....	8,501,995
Foochow	—
	8,501,995
	9,920,100

SILK.

CANTON, 14th September.—Tealees.—No settlements are reported. Re-reels.—The only sales reported during the fortnight are 30 bales No. 1 at \$6074, and 20 bales No. 2 at \$5924. Filatures.—The speculative buying for Europe having nearly ceased, business has fallen quieter of late, owing to the disparity between home values and those ruling here. Our stock, however, is unusually light for the time of year and having been produced at a high cost, continues in most cases to be firmly held. We estimate that the 5th crop will yield about 9,000 bales for foreign export. It is expected that cocoons will open at least as high as those of the 4th crop. Short-reels.—Further settlements have been unimportant, buyers being unable to follow the rapid advance reported in our last. Waste has continued to rule very firm. A sale of Steam Extra Selected opened is reported to have been made at \$108. At the close, however, buyers have reduced their offers to \$101 to \$102, with sellers at \$105 to \$106. Extra-Extra opened is held for \$105 to \$106, according to severity of selection.

CAMPHOR

HONGKONG, 27th September.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 27th September.—The prices are going upward, market being brisk. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.65 to \$8.70 per cwt.
do, 2, White.....	7.70 to 7.75 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	6.05 to 6.10 "
do, 2, Brown	5.95 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.50 to 8.55 "
do, 1, White.....	7.60 to 7.65 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	5.90 to 5.95 "
do, 2, Brown	5.70 to 5.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.45 to 12.50 "
Shekloong	10.85 to 10.90 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 27th September.—The prices are advancing, holders being firm. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.75 to 2.80
Round, Good quality	3.90 to 3.95
" Long	4.10 to 4.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.85 to 2.90
" Garden, " No. 1	3.55 to 3.60
" White	4.15 to 4.20
" Fine Cargo	4.35 to 4.40

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Massilia*, sailed on the 31st August. For London opt. Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London and/or Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—100 cases bristles. For Lyons:—350 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—100 bales raw silk, 2 cases feathers, 1 case silks. For London:—347 rolls mats and matting, 218 boxes tea from Foochow, 25 cases bristles, 35 bales raw silk, 7 cases silks, 4 bales private effects, 5 cases feathers, 1 case bunting, 1 case curios, 1 case silk embroideries. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios.

Per steamer *Heathburn*, sailed on the 23rd August. For New York:—6,463 pkgs. fire crackers, 500 bales cassia lignea, 383 cases black-woodware, 150 cases cassia, 50 cases bristles, 50 cases straw cuffs, 30 cases dried lilies, 30 boxes humanhair, 9 cases Chinaware, 4,742 pkgs. merchandise.

Per steamer *Jupiter*, sailed on the 1st September. For New York:—10 cases bristles, 1,872 pkgs. merchandise.

Per steamer *Yarra*, sailed on the 9th September. For Marseilles:—170 bales raw silk, 7 cases silks, 145 pkgs. furniture. For Lyons:—349 bales raw silk. For London:—38 bales raw silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 27th September.—Bengal:—A moderate business has passed during the fortnight in New Patna at \$932½, 930 and New Benares at \$910/907½. Old Patna at \$955. "High Numbers" New Patna, i.e. No. 7,000 and upwards has been dealt in at \$935. Market closes quiet.

Malwa:—Market ruled steady in consequence of small arrivals. We quote:—

This Year's New	at \$860
Last	880
2 Years' Old	890
3	900
Peterfore	920

Persian.—There was nothing doing in this drug.

STOCK.

Patna	2,285
Benares	865
Malwa	739½
Persian	2,723½

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 27th September.—A fair amount of business at previous rates. Stock, about 3,500 bales.

Bombay,	18.50 to 20.0	piculs
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacea,	20.00 to 23.50	"
Shanghai and Japanese,	23.00 to 25.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo,	23.00 to 25.00	"
Sale: 1,200 bales.		

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 27th September.—Demand from the country has greatly subsided and business until towards the close was very limited. The market, however, has been subsequently somewhat enlivened by the appearance of buyers for Shanghai and the Northern Ports where the signing of the Peace Protocol would appear to have restored confidence in an early and brisk revival of the trade. The enquiry has been general and almost all counts and grades of spinnings have been dealt in; No. 10s. receiving as usual by far the largest amount of attention. Prices, however, have declined 50 cents to a dollar per bale and are weak at the close; holders are anxious sellers and sales are being vigorously pressed. With small receipts and comparatively larger off-takes a further satisfactory falling off is observable in our estimate of stocks which are now brought within a reasonable compass. The market closes quiet.

Local Spinners are firm at last quotations and doing a steady business, total sales of the interval amounting to 450 bales No. 10s. at \$91½.

Japanese Spinnings.—There is no change to note in the position of these threads. Supplies are conspicuous by their absence, and the state of the home market renders any business impracticable in face of current exchange.

Raw Cotton.—In Indian descriptions the market has been quiet and the amount of business done has been small. Prices have given way about 50 cents per picul in the ordinary run of Bengal, but for machine ginned rates have been maintained. Exporters for Japan have been in some evidence and about 1,000 bales have been shipped off. The business of the fortnight comprises 95 bales at from \$19.15 to \$22½, leaving a stock of 3,500 bales on the market. There is still nothing doing in China Cotton. We quoted Bengal \$18 to \$23 and China \$24 to \$26.

Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 144½ for T/T and Rs. 144½ for Post. On Shanghai 73 and on Yokohama 5½ per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ending 21st instant, viz:—

Indian.—Total sales 10,212 bales consisting of 350 bales No. 6s., 4,995 bales No. 10s., 1,125 bales No. 12s., 525 bales No. 16s., and 3,217 bales No. 20s., prices remaining with little alteration as those last given and market closing steady. The unsold stock was estimated at about 32,000 bales.

Japanese.—Total sales about 1,060 bales on the basis of Tls. 82 to Tls. 84 for No. 16s. and Tls. 85 to Tls. 87 for No. 20s., prices showing an advance of one to two bales and market closing strong.

Local.—The recent free forward sales made by the Mills preclude the Spinners from participating in the general improvement in rates of all yarns, and sales of about 1,500 bales only are reported on the basis of Tls. 76 to Tls. 80 for No. 10s., Tls. 80 to Tls. 82 for No. 14s., and Tls. 82 to Tls. 84 for No. 16s., market closing steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th September.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 2,300 bales No. 10 at \$85 to \$93, 850 bales No. 12 at \$87 to \$91, 100 bales No. 16 at \$97 to \$104, 1,600 bales No. 20 at \$99 to \$140½.

METAL.—*Nail Rod*: 2,000 bundles at \$4·35 to arrive, 6,000 bundles at \$4·35 to arrive. *Bar Cropping*: 840 piculs at \$4·35 to arrive, 1,680 piculs at \$4·35 to arrive, 3,360 piculs at \$4·35 to arrive. *Wire Nails*: 1,000 piculs at \$5·30 to arrive.

COTTON YARN.

per bale

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$75.00 to \$113.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
.. 22 to 24	120.00 to 128.00
.. 28 to 32	136.00 to 142.00
.. 38 to 42	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

per piece.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.10 to 2.15
7 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
8.4 lbs.	2.80 to 3.40
9 to 10 lbs.	3.45 to 4.55
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd.	2.35 to 2.60
58 to 60	3.05 to 4.00
64 to 66	4.05 to 5.60
Fine	5.15 to 7.45
Book-folds	4.15 to 6.15
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.73 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.80 to 1.80
7 lbs. (32 in.),	1.85 to 2.15
6 lbs. (32 in.), Mexs.	1.82½ to 2.02½
7 lbs. (32 in.),	2.72½ to 3.20
8 to 8.4 ozs. (36 in.)	2.80 to 3.40
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.00 to 6.80

FANCY COTTONS.

per piece.

Turkey Red Shirtings—11 to 8 lbs.	1.45 to 3.50
Brocades—By d.	— to —

per yard.

Chintzes—Assorted	— to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22 to 0.50

Velveteens—18 in.	0.21 to 0.26
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per dozen.

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.36 to 2.50
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WOOLENS.

per yard.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.62½ to 1.70
Habit, Mel., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00

per piece.

Long Ells—Scarlet	6.35 to 8.10
Assorted	6.45 to 8.20

Camlets—Assorted	12.00 to 31.00
LASTINGS—30 yds., 31 inches	11.00 to 17.00

Assorted	—
Orleans—Plain	— to —

per pair.

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	2.50 to 4.00
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METALS.

per picul.

Iron—Nail Rod	4.35 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.35 to —
Swedish Bar	6.90 to —
Small Round Rod	4.60 to —
Hoop 2 to 11 2 in.	5.25 to —
Wire 15 25	8.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	7.50 to —
Australias	7.40 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14, 20 oz.	40.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —

Composition Nails	62.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.75 to —
Tin	69.00 to —</

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ 605, buyers. L'don, £61. 10s.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4 15s.	
Do. deferred	£1 £5. 5s.	
Natl. Bank of China	£8	£28, buyers
A. Shares	£8	£28, buyers
B. Shares	£1	£15, sellers
Foun. Shares...	£1	£1. 10.
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	£10	£20.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	£15	£38.
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	£20	£20.
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.)	£10	33½, sellers
China Prov. L. & M...	£100	£151, sellers
China Sugar		
Gigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$500	1,000, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.)	£50	£50, nominal.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, buyers
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 42½, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 260.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 11.
Hongkong	£100	£11½, buyers
Dairy Farm	£6	88, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	£25	£55, sellers
Green Island Cement..	£10	£214, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	£50	£50.
Hongkong & C. Gas ..	£10	£140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	£10	£12½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	£5	£64.
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.)	£100	£275, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	£50	£127, buyers
Hongkong Ice	£25	£183, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	£50	£99, sellers
Hongkong Rope	£50	£172½.
H. & W. Dock	£50	£280, buyers
Insurance —		
Canton	£50	£167½, buyers
China Fire	£20	£83, sellers
China Traders'	£25	£80, sellers
Hongkong Fire	£50	£342½, sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 190, buyers
Straits	£20	nominal.
Union	£50	£842½, buyers
Yangtsze	£60	£120, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	£100	£190½, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	£10	£134.
Kowloon Land & B.	£30	£311.
West Point Building	£50	£55, buyers
Luzon Sugar	£100	£35, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	£50	£50, nominal.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Frs. 250	£325.
Jelebu	£5	£54, buyers
Queen's Mines, Ltd...	25c.	4 cents
Olivers Mines, A...	£5	nominal.
Do. B...	£4½	nominal.
Punjom	£9	£5, sellers
Do. Perference...	£1	£14.
Raubs	18	£13, buyers
New Amoy Dock	£6½	£25.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	£50	£55.
Powell, Ltd.	£10	£10, nominal
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	£50	£50, nominal
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila	£50	£38, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	£40	£10,
Do. Ordinary	£10	£7. 10s.
Do. Bonus	£5	£5.
Douglas Steamship	£50	£44, buyers
H. Canton and M...	£15	£34½, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	£199, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.)	£1	£2. 12s. 6d., sellers
Star Ferry	£10	{ £21½, sales & bys. { £9½, buyers
Tebran Planting Co....	£5	£1.
United Asbestos	£4	£10, sellers
Do	£10	£15.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	£5	£19½, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse...	£37½	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd.	£10	£17, sellers
Wa son & Co., A. S.	£10	£15½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, brokers.

SHANGHAI, 18th September (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. The local market is quiet. INSURANCE.—Marine. North

Chinas sold at Tls. 195 and 192.50 and Yangtzes at \$120. Fires. Chinas are wanted. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S. N. Co. Shares sold at Tls. 99 for cash and 30th inst; the market has been quiet and closes so. Settlements were made for October at 99.50 and 100. Shares for forward business are offering. Shell Transport shares are offering. SUGARS.—Peraks changed hands at Tls. 72.50 and are offering. MINING.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd. Cash rates have been steady at Tls. 10.50, but shares are offering. Settlements were made for November at Tls. 10.50 and for December at 10.65. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., Ltd. Cash rates improved during week from Tls. 242.50 to Tls. 242.50 and 240, market closing with buyers at latter figure. The following settlements were made: 32.50, 235, 242.50 and 240 for 30th inst., 245, 240, 237.50 and 245 for October, 237.50 and 240 for November, 240, 247.50, 250, 252.50, for December. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 285 and 290 cash and 297.50 for December. LAND.—Shanghai were placed at Tls. 100 and are offering. INDUSTRIAL.—Gas shares are wanted. Major Bros. are offering. In Cotton Mills, Ewos sold at Tls. 37.50 for 30th instant; shares of this stock are offering, as well as Internationals and Laou Kung Mows. Ice shares changed hands at Tls. 31 and 31.25. Flour Mill shares are offering. Cigarettes sold at £50. Pulp and Paper Mills are offering. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Shanghai Tug Boat Co. have declared a second interim dividend of Tls. 3 payable on 25th inst. "Cargo Boat" shares sold at Tls. 126 for cash and are wanted. MISCELLANEOUS.—Waterworks shares are wanted. Langkat Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 340, 342.50 and 335 cash and for 3 th instant, and are offering. December settlements were made at Tls. 352.50 and 350. Llewellyns are wanted. Hall and Holtz shares were taken at £36 and are wanted. Central Stores sold at £21, £21.50 and £21. China Providents changed hands at £9.75. Astor House Hotel shares were purchased at £270 to £280 and are offering. DEBENTURES.—Municipal 6 per cent. are wanted. Shanghai Land Investment 5 per cent. were placed at Tls. 93, cum accrued interest and Perak Sugar 7 per cent. at Tls. 102. Shanghai Club 6 per cent. are offering.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS. FRIDAY, 27th September.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1.11½
Bank Bills, on demand 1.11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1.11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1.11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight 1.11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1.11½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.44
Credits, 4 months' sight 2.47

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 1.97

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 46½

Credits, 60 days' sight 47½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1.44½

Bank, on demand 1.45

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1.44½

Bank, on demand 1.45

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 73

Private, 30 days' sight 73½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 5½

ON MANILA.—

On demand 3½

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand 1½

ON BATAVIA.—

On demand 1.17½

ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand 1½

ON SAIGON.—

On demand 1½

ON BANGKOK.—

On demand 60½

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate ... 10.25

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 53.5

BAR SILVER per oz. 26½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Sanuki Maru (str.), Hakata Maru (str.).

FOR LONDON.—Chusan (str.), Formosa (str.), Pyrrhus (str.), Calchas (str.), Ajas (str.), Nestor (str.), Machaon (str.), Sanuki Maru (str.), Hakata Maru (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Ulysses (str.), Dardanus (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Natal (str.), Sanuki Maru (str.), Hakata Maru (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Preussen (str.), Königsburg (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Königsberg (str.), Segoria (str.), Suevia (str.), Arabia (str.), Bamberg (str.), Marburg (str.).

FOR TRIESTE.—China (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Olympia (str.), Teenkai (str.), Tartar (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.), Tartar (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Hongkong Maru (str.), Gaelic (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—State of Maine (str.), Satsuma (str.), Claverdale (str.), Longships (str.), Manuel Llaguno, Glengyle (str.).

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 27th September.—The freight market continues dull, with very little demand for tonnage. Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul nominal; to Philippines, 35 cents; to Java, 32 cents last. Bangkok to this, 30 and 25 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, 30 cents per picul for second half October loading. Japan coal freights.—Moji to this, \$2.15, to Singapore \$2.75 per ton. Mororan to Hongkong, \$3.00 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The American ship State of Maine, 1,467 tons net reg., has been chartered to load here for New York, rate private.

The following are the settlements:—

State of Maine—American ship, 1,467 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

Daphne—German steamer, 1,415 tons, Kuchinotzu to Swatow, \$2.40, Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.

Babelsberg—German steamer, 1,379 tons, Karatzu to Manila, \$4.75 per ton.

Hermann Menzell—German steamer, 1,004 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 29 cents per picul (24,000 piculs.)

Kreiyang—British steamer, 1,062 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 31 cents per picul (22,000 piculs.)

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 31 cents per picul (22,000 piculs.)

A China N. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 32 cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 30 cents per picul.

Marie Jebsen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 31 and 26 cents per picul.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 25 cents per picul.

Peiyang—German steamer, 1,036 tons, Mororan to Hongkong, \$3 per ton.

Bennihr—British steamer, 1,935 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Meji to Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.

Emma—German steamer, 1,681 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton.

Baron Innerdale—British steamer, 2,140 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Elsa—German steamer

SHIPPING.**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.
ARRIVALS.****September—**

- 22, Taksang, British str., from Bangkok.
 23, Calchas, British str., from Liverpool.
 23, Elsa, German str., from Canton.
 23, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 23, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
 23, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 24, Shansi, British str., from Amoy.
 23, Shantung, German str., from Manila.
 24, Algoa, British str., from Manila.
 24, Carinthia, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
 24, Cheangchew, British str., from Straits.
 24, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Hailoong, British str., from Haiphong.
 24, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from London.
 24, Laos, French str., from Marseilles.
 24, Loksang, British str., from Chefoo.
 24, Penarth, British str., from Wellington.
 24, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 24, Richmond Castle, Brit. str., from N. York.
 24, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 24, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 24, Bakan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 24, Chunsang, British str., from Java.
 24, Dajin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamzui.
 24, Denteros, German str., from Saigon.
 24, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 24, Kong Beng, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, Eridan, French str., from Saigon.
 25, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
 25, Glenfarg, British str., from Saigon.
 25, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 25, Michael Jebsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 25, Olympia, American str., from Tacoma.
 25, Progress, German str., from Toulon.
 25, R. Dickinson, British str., from Hankow.
 26, Albania, British ship, from Manila.
 26, Australian, British str., from Australia.
 26, Bengal, British str., from Bombay.
 26, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
 26, Kinkiang, British str., from Amoy.
 26, Mogul, British str., from Amoy.
 26, Teenkai, British str., from Glasgow.
 26, W. H. Conner, Amr. ship, from Manila.
 27, Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Nanyang, German str., from Saigon.
 27, Ocean, British battleship, from Whaiwei.
 27, P. C. C. Kiao, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.

September—DEPARTURES.

- 23, Babelsberg, German str., for Karatsu.
 23, Indus, French str., for Europe.
 23, Stillberg, German str., for Newchwang.
 23, Tetartos, German str., for Singapore.
 24, Amara, British str., for Hongay.
 24, Amiral Charner, French cr., for Saigon.
 24, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
 24, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
 24, Elsa, German str., for Hongay.
 24, Gloucester City, British str., for Saigon.
 24, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
 24, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 24, Iltis, German gunboat, for a cruise.
 24, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 24, Laos, Fr. str., for Shanghai and Japan.
 24, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Tamsui.
 24, Shantung, German str., for Saigon.
 24, Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
 25, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 25, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 25, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
 25, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 25, Fushun, British str., for Canton.
 25, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 25, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 25, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.
 25, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 25, Penarth, British str., for Taku.
 25, Shansi, British str., for Samarang.
 25, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 26, Calchas, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Carinthia, Austrian str., for Bombay.
 26, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.
 26, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 26, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Macdonn, British str., for Moji.
 26, Richmond Castle, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 27, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 27, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.

- 27, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 27, Herman Menzell, German str., for Chefoo.
 27, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Sydney.
 27, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS LIST.**ARRIVED.**

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs. Gregory, Danby and Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Azed Abdul Kyum and children.

Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Ramsay and three children, Mrs. Burnett, Miss W. H. Ross, Messrs. W. Balloch and L. Hankin and Master Bongean.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Mrs. Whitney, Dr. Langer, Capt. Potts, Misses G. and O. Shearer, Messrs. Benjamin, Brayne, Reyes, Osorio, Gleason, O. Shearer, D. R. Cameron, S. Benjamin, Ulster and Peterson.

Per *Indus*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Capt. Harford, Messrs. H. G. Barrett and Ponteville; from Kobe, Mr. Bayle; from Nagasaki, Count Pauliol, Capt. Guichard and Mr. Guerini; from Shanghai, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Steinberg, Mrs. Anita Fasconi, Mrs. Gemosi, Mrs. Dantremer, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Naudam, Mr. and Mrs. Oblowetz, Miss Mitchell, Messrs. Taylor, Sinclair and Borelli and Mrs. Okada; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Messrs. Normand and Pommes; for Singapore, from Kobe, Mr. MacKertoon; from Shanghai, Messrs. Wegelin, Hibberdine and M. Newmann; for Port Said, from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Nadel; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Sir Alex Sweetenham, Mr. Duthiean, Mrs. Shimunki and Mrs. Ogata; from Kobe, Mr. Leconte; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Contant, Mrs. Vuron Durocher, Mrs. Souchet, Mrs. Odet, Messrs. Milley, de Grandprey, Dupont, Dally, Puech, Millot, Callat, Enjalbat, Pére and Bulashu, from Shanghai, Messrs. Michelot, Benillard, Vilher and Mariel.

Per *Hongkong*, from Haiphong, Mr. Mora.

Per *Luos*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Miss A. Muraire and Mr. P. Chavant; from Singapore, Messrs. G. Derrich, Siva and Tuicta; from Saigon, Rev. van Camelbeke, Messrs. Jean Renier, L. Blais, Torrebilla and G. V. Cormann.

Per *Fushun*, from Shanghai, Cap. Payne, Messrs. G. Weiss, C. Jurgens and G. L. Yung.

Per *Yucnsang*, from Manila, Mrs. Mann, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Gelwicke, Messrs. Jefferson and Frank Ituwi.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Col. Wheeler, Major Kettlewell, Lieut. Labertonche, Lieut. S. Y. Corgill and Mr. N. Richardson; for Manila, Mrs. and Master Bullard, Col. and Mrs. J. McE. Hyde, Messrs. Manuel, Farinas and Ricardo Lagodo; for Thursday Island, Mr. Nishikawa; for Sydney, Messrs. H. Hennelhook and N. Igarashi; for Melbourne, Consul and Mrs. Fulford and Mr. Roberts.

Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mrs. Muir, Rev. Gibson and Mr. Langhorne.

Per *Inaba Maru*, from London, Mrs. Lefroy and son, Mrs. Golowron and daughter, Messrs. Northcott, Buckall and Johnson.

Per *Olympia*, from Tacoma, Dr. and Mrs. Denman and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Carl and Mr. Andras.

Per *Australias*, for Hongkong, from Melbourne, Mrs. Fuller; from Sydney, Mrs. F. Gore and child, Mrs. F. G. Maitland, Capt. and Mrs. G. W. Groves and two children, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jackson, Misses Steele and Munro, Messrs. H. L. Beale and W. S. Collins; from Port Darwin, Mr. Yamamoto; from Timor, Messrs. Luiz Augusto Rodrigues, V. Claudio Gonsalves Maria Lopez and Maria Hyndmann and Rev. Mansel Jeronyma; from Manila, Major and Mrs. O. E. Wood, Capt. W. T. Blanvelt, Messrs. L. Boutimor, H. Gheison, T. W. Jayasueya and J. Tamawa and Miss Shibukawa; for Shanghai, from Brisbane, Mr. G. W. Painter; from Sydney, Mrs. H. Taylor and Mr. A. Mason; for Kobe, from Melbourne, Hon. Wm. Hay and Miss Hay; from Sydney, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. and Master G. W. Smithers, Mrs. Devenish and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Howard Smith and Miss Helms; from Townsville, Mrs. Maxwell Hutchison and Miss Symons; from Port Darwin, Mr. Osokawa.

Per *Bengal*, for Hongkong, from London Mr. and Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Daly, Misses Fenner and Sweet, Sergt. Wood, Corp. Marsden and

Mr. C. J. Cook; from Gibraltar, Mr. J. A. Fernandes; from Marseilles, Messrs. W. E. Dixon, W. B. Dixon, Brunner and E. H. Codling; from Bombay, Mr. A. C. Abdulla; from Singapore, Messrs. Strachan, C. Knight, F. H. Dixon and C. H. Hand

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DEPARTED.

Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Mrs. R. F. Weir, Mrs. H. L. Draper and Master Draper, Messrs. E. E. Singleton, Okla Vandervert and Fr. Cleto Palacios.

Per *Tamba Maru*, for Marseilles, &c., Mrs. Thomas A. Sze, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hare and three children, Misses A. Hogg, A. Evans and Anne M. Page, Messrs. A. Blas, Geo. R. Stevens, E. Crawford, Cranston, Max Schlesinger, A. Hamilton, D. W. Scott, A. McAlister, Y. Toyama, K. Shoda, K. Yabe, S. Hayakawa, C. Kawakami, K. Taguchi, N. Iwano, S. Hashimoto, K. Ikibara, T. Sato, K. Suno and Comdr. K. Sudzaki.

Per *Yurata Maru*, for Japan, Brigadier-General and Mrs. M. I. Ludington, Mrs. and Miss Inglis, Lieut. and Mrs. Muir, Dr. Mrs. and Misses Hocken, Capt. and Mrs. Wright and child; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Clapperton, Mr. and Mrs. McMullen, Mr. and Mrs. Rivero and child, Miss Smith, Dr. Wiseman, Messrs. Frank J. Hogan, A. J. Woold, P. Ryan, Swindle, Schuntanhaus, E. Kirchauff, S. Kirchauff, M. Garay, Shanks and Barry, Mrs. Kobota, Mrs. S. Sudzuki, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Yano and infant, Mr. and Mrs. M. Takahashi and child, Miss O. Matsufuji, Capt. Y. Tokisawa, Messrs. S. Ito, K. Tani, C. Furukawa, I. Sumi and Ishikawa.

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Per *Luos*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Hance and Mr. Hugh McCombe; for Yokohama, Mr. Gabriel.

Per *City of Peking*, for Shanghai, Mr. F. Percy Harrold; for Yokohama, Baron and Mrs. L. C. Dithakar and infant; for San Francisco, Mrs. J. A. McMullen, Messrs. A. S. Howe, A. Simon, S. B. Redlick, Lemcke and J. C. Herman.

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Per *Diamante*, for Manila, Mrs. A. Fergona, Mrs. H. A. Branscom, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. A. McCarl, Dr. Keen and Misses Keen, Miss Bersteinder, Messrs. B. Wise, Otto Sheerer, P. Chavant, C. J. Andras and M. Torrebilla.

Per *Bengal*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Mrs. Philpot and two children, Mrs. Moses, Mrs. Haskell, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Messrs. T. J. Gillings, A. J. Wood, Joseph Peart and Gleson; from Colombo, Mrs. W. S. King and two children and Mrs. Taylor and child; from Marseilles, Rev. and Mrs. J. Paxton and infant; for Yokohama, from Colombo, Mr. G. Gracewood; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. B. F. Madon.

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